

Impact - Faith That Works

Week 3: Life Together

Main Idea: Living by faith changes not only how we relate to God, but also how we relate to one another in community. Jesus calls us to be not just individuals, but a church that reflects His character to the world.

Introduction

- In your opinion, does the way people interact and engage with one another in the church look different or the same as other organizations/groups where people gather? Should it? Explain.

- Why do you think we tend to see our faith as something that only pertains to us as individuals? Why do you think people say “I don’t need to church to be a Christian”?

Read Ephesians 4:17-32

- Look at verses 17-24. What are some characteristics of the “old self” and “new self”? Why is it important that we understand the contrast between each?

- What has “putting on the new self” looked like for you as you’ve navigated following Christ in your own life?

- Look at verses 27-32. What do these verses reveal about how our faith should impact the way we relate to other people in our community? What aspects of this do you find most challenging or difficult?

Candid Conversation

- How can you put into practice - both individually and collectively - being a community that reflects Jesus to the world through:
 - Conflict/disagreement
 - Generosity and kindness (Is there a difference between being nice and kind?)
 - How we talk/our speech
 - Serving one another
 - Our willingness to forgive one another

Ephesians 4:17-32

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. **18** They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. **19** They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. **20** But that is not the way you learned Christ!— **21** assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, **22** to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, **23** and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **24** and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. **26** Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **27** and give no opportunity to the devil. **28** Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. **29** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32** Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.