

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

SERIES: I LOVE MY CHURCH | WEEK 4 | 8.22.2021

Well, we want to celebrate this morning the church—this thing that Jesus gave His life for, those of us who are gathered together who have put our trust in Jesus—to celebrate Jesus. I am aware that this morning the church in Afghanistan is in a difficult spot, so let's just take a moment and pray for them. We're blessed that we're able to worship the way we are.

Lord Jesus,



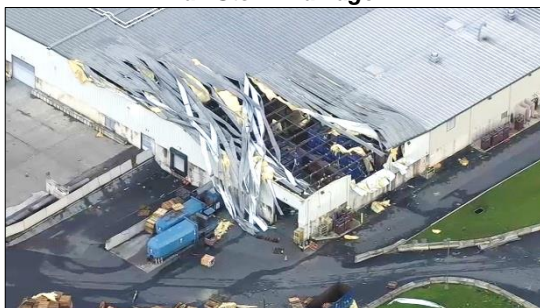
I bring that church in Afghanistan before You today, the body of believers I understand that in recent years a very fast-growing body of believers, and this morning they are at risk, they are in difficult times, we don't even know the part of it. But, Lord, we know that your Spirit is there, that You are strengthening them. And we would ask that You would awaken in your church a revival that You would allow them to trust in You, to depend on your Spirit in a powerful way, and that somehow the witness in this moment would rise up and even to those who would come against them, that they would see the power of Jesus Christ in a way they could have never seen. That they'd be a witness there in that country and in that world. I pray that You'll protect them today, provide for them in ways that only You can do. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen.

Hey, we're in the book of Ephesians, Chapter 4, if you have your Bibles I would love for you to open to that book. We've been going through this chapter in a series called I LOVE MY CHURCH and at the very beginning of the chapter the Apostle Paul says I urge *you* to walk worthy of the calling that you have in Jesus. There is something special that Jesus has come into our life, and when He's come into our life He's radically changed us in a way that we'll never be the same again. And so we live differently, we act differently, we behave differently, and thus, the people around us see us as different.

A bunch of years ago our town had a huge hailstorm, so much so that every vehicle afterwards had dents all over the vehicle, windshields were broken, roofs were destroyed, and within 24 hours it was like lines of trucks coming into our town. They were storm chasers all with different names of different companies and different license plates on the back, all coming into town to partake of this bounty that they now had of being able to repair all of our cars, all of our windshields, and replace all of our roofs.

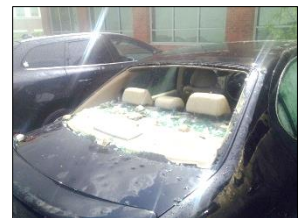


Hail Storm Damage



And for the next year, two years, these people lived in the local hotels and fixed all of that in our town.

One man in specific I remember, interestingly enough I couldn't tell you what his name was, I can't picture him in my head right now, I can remember one thing—it was the way he always said goodbye to you before he left you. He'd always look at you and he'd say, "Walk worthy, walk worthy." He was a dear brother in Jesus Christ, following Jesus Christ, and when he saw a believer his command, his challenge, his encouragement to



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them was walk worthy. I found it to be this attractive response because every time he said walk worthy to me I found myself after the fact thinking about, *What's it look like to walk worthy? What would it look like to walk worthy of Jesus Christ?*

In Chapter 4 of Ephesians talks to a church living in a difficult place in a difficult time. I don't know if there's ever an easy time, this was in that very 1st Century when the Apostle Paul came into the town of Ephesus. This was the largest town in the ancient Roman Empire in that 1st Century, it was the place where the amphitheater that they had built there held 50,000 people, we think we're advanced now, 50,000 people gathering into that place. And one of the seven wonders of the ancient world was there, the temple to Diana, and that was the place of ancient religious worship, magical arts, astrology, and they were all focused in on this kind of a thing.

And the Apostle Paul shows up in Ephesus for two years, shares about Jesus Christ, how He died on the cross to forgive them of their sins and how He rose again to give them new life, and that if they put their faith and trust in Him they could have eternal life and they could live a new life through Jesus Christ. And people responded en masse and more and more people kept on trusting Jesus. And as they saw how the Christian life transformed them, that they'd never be the same again, it became extremely attractive to those around that this is something that I want.

In fact, they saw the power of God working through lives. That this was a powerful thing taking place, that the God of the universe could do miraculous things to change people; so much so that even the those who were practicing the magical arts and those kinds of things, they started trying to perform their magical arts in the name of Jesus. Acts 19, you ought to read it after the service today, it talks all about this and says that when they tried to perform their magical arts in the name of Jesus there was no way it was working. In fact, there were so many people whose lives were being changed in that time that there arose a lot of attention against Christianity.

The temple of Diana that was this one of the seven wonders of that world at that time was losing money, was losing income because of this. Acts 19 says the Christians got together and burned all of their goodies that they had gotten from the temple and that were part of their temple worship. And Acts 19 talks about how much money was involved in their just getting rid of all that, how much money was lost. And in the midst of the loss of financial gain in this religious practice, all of a sudden there was a major pushback to Christianity.

In fact, the sentiment that was going out at that time was if we allow this Christianity to move forward like it is, all of this is going to be shut down here momentarily, all of this temple of Diana is going to be shut down. And so in that moment when all of a sudden God's people live free of the power of Satan, we become a threat to Satan and Satan shoots back, and shoot back hard he did. And the Apostle Paul writes to the church in Ephesus to help them process through in their own minds how do I live out this Christian life in a culture that has no interest in following Jesus Christ, has no interest in doing it God's way.

And so since Jesus changes lives so much, if we walk into a dark, dark culture and we are the light of God in this world, we should stand out, we should be different, people should look at us and go, *What is that all about? That's different.* Now what culture is going to try to do is shut us down, box us up and shut us up. In fact, it's going to try to just conform us so that we feel like, *Well, we probably ought to look like them.* But what was happening in the church in Ephesus was they weren't looking like the culture, they were looking like Jesus. But that's hard and when things get hard we have a tendency to back off, which is what was happening in that time. The Apostle Paul writes to the church at Ephesus in the second half of this chapter, Chapter 4, he tells them three things: Here here's who you used to be,

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Here's who you used to be –

you're not that anymore

Here's who you are now and
who God has made you to be –

focus in on that

Here's who you're becoming –

how are we going to get there?

you're not that anymore; here's who you are now and who God has made you to be, focus in on that; and here's who you're becoming, now how are we going to get there? And that's the message of the second half to the Ephesian church, those people gathered together in the

name of Jesus, who loved Jesus, who are supporting each other and focusing in on the one thing that they have in common.

So if you have your Bibles I'd love for you to look at Ephesians 4, verse 17, he says this:

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do,

— So the storm chaser said walk worthy, that's walking as Christ would have you to walk. Paul's saying to them, listen, there's other people that walk but they're not walking where they ought to be walking. They're walking into darkness, they're walking into things that they shouldn't be walking into. That's who you used to be before Jesus. I don't want you walking that way anymore. In fact, he goes on to say, he says:

in the futility of their minds.

— dumb thinking, not God-type thinking; thinking that is not going to get you anywhere is what he's saying there —

**¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God
– EPHESIANS 4:17-18a (ESV)**

Let's talk about futility, let's talk about darkened. Let's say what might Paul be thinking about when he says this is who you used to be, this is who the unsaved world is, that's what he's referring to is, um, the Gentiles in this case, this is who the unsaved world is. In Romans Chapter 1 Paul wrote this as well, he uses these two words in Romans Chapter 1, the word *futility* and *darkened* in their mind. Romans Chapter 1, verse 21, says this:

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

— Crazy thinking, they knew who God was. Romans 1 tells us He showed Himself through creation. He made it very clear to the people through their consciences who He was and yet they said no thank you. And the more they said no thank you, no thank you, no thank you, their minds began to think up futility, darkened-ness—that's the words that Paul's using here—and come up with every kind of evil known and Paul lists those. He says first of all, he says their hearts went to impurity, to dishonoring their bodies among themselves:

²⁴ Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

– ROMANS 1:21, 24-25 (ESV)

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And what Paul's wanting to say here is they placed other things as more important than God. They placed things in the place of God that should have never been placed there. And then he says but it didn't stop there. When we go down the path of sin, when we pull our worship and allegiance away from God—in fact, that verse in [Ephesians] 4:18 says *alienated* from God—it's like taking the plug and unplugging it from the wall and wondering why the light doesn't light. When that light goes out, when the power of God, when the eyes on God goes away, then all of a sudden everything starts going dark. And in Romans Chapter 1 the Apostle Paul really defines that. He says this:

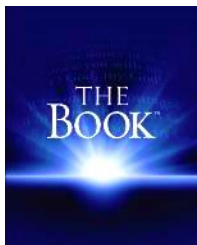
²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; ²⁷ and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

— We live in a moment where we're being told, "Hey, we need to have sensitivity training on this," when Paul would say is what they're trying to do is desensitize you to sin. The goal of our society is to cause you to just sort of blend in and accept everything and accept wrong behavior as normal behavior, and there is a constant training along those lines. Listen to this in verse 28, it says:

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

– ROMANS 1:26-31 (ESV)

And it goes on and on. Ephesians 4:17 says that's how you used to be, don't be brought into that mold any longer, that's not who you are. Don't be assimilated into your culture. And, in fact, there are many who once looked like they were part of the church who are in this thing that right now in our world is called deconstructing of the faith. There are those trying to deconstruct the faith going, "Yeah, you know what, this Book is old, this isn't really up to date. We've become more enlightened now, we know a little bit more, we understand a little bit more, so all of that stuff you just read there in Romans Chapter 1, yeah, that's not for today." And they deconstruct our faith and walk away from God altogether.



In fact, next week we're going to begin teaching a series on doctrine and the first thing we're going to discuss is the doctrine of the Bible. Can we trust this Book? Is this Book relevant, even though everything I just read flies in the face of everything you're being taught constantly, whether it's on the news or on television, in your work training programs, in the newspaper, wherever you're at you're being pushed with it. In fact, if you don't agree you are considered as a person with hate speech to a point that this Book is going to be called hate speech, if it's not already. It probably is already. And the reality is if you claim this Book you're going to be pushed up against hard. What are we going to do about that? Do I believe in this enough to be able to stand up and say, "No, this Book is truth and this is relevant today"? That's what we're going to begin to talk about next week as we go through this series on doctrine.

It says here in Ephesians 4:18:

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.

– EPHESIANS 4:18 (ESV)

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The Big Lie: This life is all there is

The big lie that we're all buying into is this is everything [FLINGS HIS ARMS OUT WIDE], this is all there is to life. What you see is what you get, you better go grab it and you better take life for all of its worth. You only live once, enjoy it, take it all in, there is nothing more. And so sort of like Solomon on that original chase to sort of try everything and get everything and acquire everything, and you'll remember when Solomon finally gets to the end of it he steps back and says, "Meaningless, Meaningless."¹ It was all empty. And that's what so many people find that chase after this lie that this life is all there is and then find out that the bottom drops out and there's nothing left for them. We come here to this place every week knowing that we are children of the King, knowing Jesus is God, and that there is eternity ahead of us and there is so much more than this life. And we put our focus in on the God who has created us.

We're also reminded that He saved us. Ephesians Chapter 2, just a couple chapters before this says:

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sin in which you once walked,

— once walked —

following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

– EPHESIANS 2:1-2 (ESV)

There's an agreement in this world that this world's messed up and that we're messed up and other people are messed up, but there is also this feeling of wow, we're the most enlightened people, we've got it figured out, we're the most educated, most knowledgeable ever in society. And that we have somehow leaped over all of that and we pick and choose what we think is right, and we posture ourselves as these things are good, and we're just basically good people. The Scripture says no, we're sinners, we're lost, we're separated from God and we need Jesus, and we need to come to Him.²

Ephesians 4:18 again, at the end of it says this, "**due to their hardness of heart.**" You think about hard hearts, um, those things that cause us to be separated from each other. Do you have a hard heart towards anyone today? They didn't meet your expectations? They weren't who you thought they were? They didn't do things the way you wanted them to do, you went your own way. They're extremely negative, you feel hurt, you feel put upon, you feel angry, you feel suspicious, um, you get to a place where you just go, "I don't need you. I don't want you in my life. You're not gonna tell me what to do." And the same thing happens towards God. It's like, *God, You didn't perform in the way that I wanted this morning in the way that I needed to do it my way.* And so we harden hearts against God.

The classic story of this is referenced in the book of Hebrews where the author of Hebrews says don't harden your hearts, don't harden your hearts towards God.³ That's what everyone's telling you to do, it's like, *Where's God in all of this? If God—you know the whole conversation—if God is such a good God then why this and why that.* And your answer is supposed to go, "Oh, yeah. I'm out." Are you kidding me? You're going to be out on the Creator of the universe? So in that passage in Hebrews the writer of the Hebrews says don't harden your hearts as they did in Meribah. In Exodus Chapter 17 there was this situation where the people came together—you'll remember as God released people from slavery out of Egypt any time they hit a hard spot it was like, *God, what's the problem with You now?*—and their

¹ "Meaningless" is found in the NIV, NLT & ERV translations.

² Romans 3:23-25a (ESV): **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.**

³ See Hebrews 3:8, 3:15, 4:7

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question in Exodus 17 they yelled out, "Is the Lord among us or not?"⁴ And the Scripture says listen, don't harden your heart.

This passage in Ephesians 4:18 says here's who you were and you were at a place where you came to the hardness of heart, but let me tell you who you are. You don't need to be in a place where you have a hard heart. God *is* near, He *does* love you, He *has* called you to yourself. You once were miraculously, powerfully saved and you were changed in that moment. This church in Ephesus when these people met Jesus they found the power of the Spirit of God. Here's what went wrong a little later on. When Jesus in the book of Revelation speaks to the church at Ephesus He says this one thing I have against you, He says you have lost your first love. He says come back to your first love.

⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.

– REV 2:4-5a (ESV)

There's some of us in this room right now that we forgot that we're no longer what we once were. We forgot how miraculous it was when He transformed our hearts. Three weeks ago we had like 20 people get baptized who most recently, most of them had most recently gotten saved. I mean, these people I got to talk to many of them, they were telling me how God changed their life, changed them from what they once were to something new and there was this new, fresh, passionate joy in their hearts. I talked to some of you who said that was a good moment because it reminded you of that time when you had that. But there's some others of you were just, *I just don't feel that excitement anymore, it doesn't feel like it did back when I put my trust in Jesus, when I was in pool.* And that's why God says don't harden your heart. You need it to be soft and something different has changed.

And so in Ephesians, Chapter 4, verse 21, he says I want to tell you who you are now. He says:

²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,

– EPHESIANS 4:21 (ESV)

Here's the assumption: That when you put your trust in Jesus that you learned about Him, that you got to know Him so that you could apply what you learned to, oh, let's say you're dating, your work life, your marriage, to your raising of your children, to your finances, like putting Jesus at the center of each of those. Praying through those things and letting Jesus and the truth of Jesus inform each of those things. That's why this parent-child dedication thing is so important. It's why we say hey, listen, are you going to teach your children the truth? Are you going to teach it when you're at breakfast? Are you going to teach it when you're at lunch? Are you going to teach it when you're driving in the car? Are you going to teach it while you're waiting at the doctor's office? Are you going to bring Jesus into each of those areas of our lives?

This is not what you once were where it's just like, *I'll just get everything I can, and if I can't get that I'm going to lie about it, I'm going to cheat and I'm going to steal to get there. And when it all goes bad I'm gonna get depressed and frustrated about it and hate life and hate people.* He says no, something's changed now, you have Jesus and now every area of your life becomes an area to put the truth of Jesus into and you no longer have to walk in the way that you once did. He says listen, here's what we're going to do, we're going to:

⁴ Exodus 17:7 (ESV): **And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"**

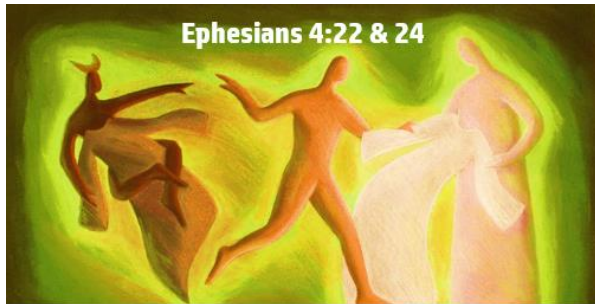
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²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life

– EPHESIANS 4:22 (ESV)

By the way, the sooner you can do that the better. I talk to a lot of people who spend their whole life talking about their former way of life; a lot of people talking about how they're going to get rid of sin. What's the sin that the Scripture refers to it as the sin that so easily besets you?⁵ What is the sin that is holding *you* back in your life? That, like, if I talked to you five years ago you're bringing that up? If you brought it up five months ago what was your sin that's holding you back, same sin. Two weeks ago,



**Put off your old self, which belongs
to your former manner of life...**

**...and put on the new self,
created after the likeness of God.**

same sin. Today, same sin. Six months from now it'll be the same sin, and 15 years from now it'll be the same sin. What a shame. He says listen, put it off.

I think putting off is a wonderful thing, but even when you're putting off, putting off is not real impressive. It needs to be done, it needs to be done once and for all, and it needs to be over. It's why we talk here a lot about coming before God in repentance going, *God, I'm a sinner*. A lot of you are like [HE CRINGES], "I don't like the sound of that." But the reality is that's my sin, that's what I have to put off, that's what Jesus Christ died for. He doesn't want us to keep on living in that.

Oh, yes, it's going to keep on tempting us, it's going to keep coming around and knocking at our door and we say no to that, but we don't keep on taking it on. What we want to be putting on is Jesus. What we want to be putting on is righteousness. When He died He gave us His righteousness, we no longer have to live in sin. And He is reminding us who you are, you have put off the old – good, you repent – good, now be done with it. And now he says we're going to put on the new. Look at Chapter 4, verse 24:

²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

– EPHESIANS 4:24 (ESV)

New is always considered in our world better. You get a product that's new, that's better. When we take on the newness of Jesus and the righteousness of God and that new self we're being changed, and all of a sudden there's a beauty in that; that God making you righteous through Jesus—goes back to where we started—you shine. There's something different about you. People say, "I want that." Can you imagine if the world around us in this 10-mile radius would say, "Those Christians, wow!" What would be about our walk where we're walking worthy that if people saw us walking like that they'd say, "I want that. I want that. How'd you get that? Give me some of that."

And that leads us to the last point that we have here this morning—what you're gonna be. What you were, who are you now? I'm putting off the old, putting on the new. What is that new? What are we going to be?

We're in the last week of I LOVE MY CHURCH and I do, I love my church. By the way, this is nine years ago today we celebrated our first Sunday here at Calvary and so we're excited to be still here, loving this place nine years later, been through a lot together as a church. And we come here to this day and we say as a church—Where are we going? Now when we oftentimes have that kind of a conversation there's

⁵ See Hebrews 12:1

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Pastor Lee
August 2012

lots of things that come into people's minds, but one of the things we're constantly talking about here is what's it look like to become more like Jesus? That's where we're going, where we put off the old and we're putting on the new and living in that victory of Jesus so that the world around us is seeing us in such a way that they go, "I want that."



Pastor Lee
August 2021

Celebrating our first Sunday here 9 years ago today – still loving this place!

So as we wrap up this chapter, this long section, we don't have time to go into a huge amount of it into detail but I want you to be thinking about this. I would like maybe even something that is read here to cause you to think, *Okay, where am I going?* Here's why. Walk worthy indicates steps, walking, stepping to the next step, steps are a big deal in our time. We have StairMasters, steppers, we have steps on our watch, we have steps on our phone, we keep track of our steps, we know how many steps we ought to have in a day. When you had your first child or when you had your fifth child, however many your preference is, Juan's going for a lot, when they first start walking you're pretty excited about their first step and you're pretty excited when they take two steps in a row. And by the time they take three you're like, "Uh-oh, we're in trouble. They're gonna start being all over this place momentarily." And we're thankful for that because if all they ever did was finally get up on their feet and take one step we would not be satisfied.

The Word of God is going to teach us as Christians the reason why we gotta stop spending all of our life putting off, we need to repent and get that stuff behind us and we need to start putting on, is because the Scripture is telling us here walk worthy, church, all of us walking worthy. That we're taking that next step, and when we're all taking that next step great things are happening. We have on our website, I think it's one of the drop-down things on the website, it says Next Steps.



So we talk about salvation, we want you to put your trust in Jesus. We talk about serving. We talk about giving. But when we talk about next steps one of the things we talk a lot about is community. We talk about groups because we believe that God has put us together as a church on purpose to help us grow together, so that we can link arms together, so we can move forward together. When we get together, that's why I love the fact that we've got men's groups, we've got women's groups, we've got affinity groups, you know, they go play basketball together and sports together and do running together and do quilting together. And then we have age-related groups, you know, people are like, "We hang out together because we're like similar to each other." Those groups, we get together in those groups, it's more than just a, "We're going to teach a bunch of information." It's we teach that information and in the midst of teaching that information it changes me. Truth known, just knowing truth doesn't change a person, only truth activated or acted upon matters.

So let me read these verses and I want to just give you this last little thought. I'm in Chapter 4, verse 25, who are you going to be, verse 25:

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.

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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.

– EPHESIANS 4:25-32 (ESV)

I don't know about you but if you're reading that list and going, "Oh, my. Okay, where do I start and how do I go there?" And we give all sorts of instruction on that today, but here's what I believe that is important for us as a church and where we're going is we believe that if each one of us are connected to each one of us, why God put us together in this thing called a church, if we're living in community we can be encouraging each other to love and good works. We can be encouraging each other by studying the Bible together, by doing life together, by meeting together.

Even our recreation groups when they get together and play volleyball or basketball or I hear now they have pickleball, I hear that's like a big deal, like we can hardly get enough space and hours in to do all the pickleball, everyone wants to pickle in here. I don't know what all pickleball is but it's so cool. But the reality is when we do all that here during the week, we stop, we take a time and we get everyone to just sit down on the floor and we share the Word of God together and we share together a little bit. We get to know each other because we need to encourage each other even when we're playing pickleball, even when we're playing volleyball, even when we're quilting. Encourage one another.

When we're struggling with not telling the truth, when we're struggling with being angry with someone, when we're struggling this passage talks about forgiving one another. We're struggling to be kind. When you're struggling in your marriage, when you're trying to figure out how to get your kids to be all these things to each other—we need each other.

So on this last week of I LOVE MY CHURCH this is what I'd love for you, ask you to do. If you're not part of a group, jump into a group. And like I said, I mean, I can go anywhere from playing pickleball to quilting to being in a Bible study, but being in a group with other people where you can be working out life so that you can become who God has called you to be, and we can do it together. And I think He's called us to do this together. It's not something we're meant to do alone. It's why we just appreciate you being here, why we appreciate you being in groups, and I think we need this more than we've ever needed it before.

If you're not in a group, love for you to jump in now, here's why. Everything sort of starts in the next week or so, so after the service today go out to the Blue Wall, they'll be out there, they'll talk to you, help you find the perfect group for you, whether that's a Bible study in the middle of a week or during the day or with women or with men, or a sports activity team. They're out there to talk to you right afterwards. If



Basketball



Volleyball



Pickleball

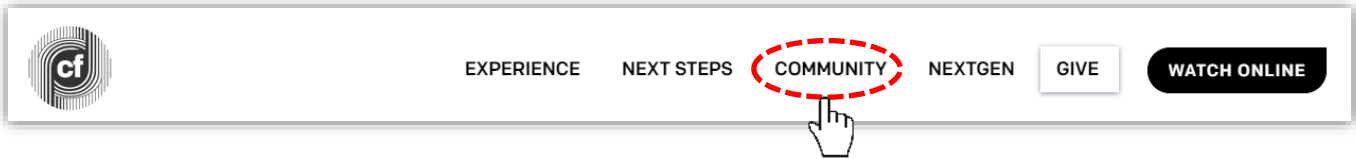


Quilting

WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

SERIES: I LOVE MY CHURCH | WEEK 4 | 8.22.2021

you're not feeling very sociable this morning or you're online and you can't get to the Blue Wall, on the website there's a place under Community to choose your communities.



The filter's there, it's all intuitive, it's all easy, and you can do all the things to get signed up, you'll get an email. If you don't like it, everyone will understand, try a different one but jump into that community so you can become who God has called you to become.

I'm gonna ask the worship team to come up here. I want to just say thank you, church, for being the church. I want to encourage you. We want to move together forward as a church to love Jesus and follow Jesus. We want people finding Jesus here, we want people following Jesus here, and we want you to be able to fulfill this mission of following Jesus for the rest of your life here in this place. It's a great place to do it and I want to thank you for how you're involved in it.

We're going to go into a time of worship right now and I would invite you to just respond by lifting up your voices and just giving yourself fully over to Jesus. I am haunted by those words of Jesus to the church of Ephesus, a place that was seeing such power when He said you've lost your first love. Maybe you feel like you're a bit dulled and maybe you feel like that moment has long since passed, allow these next moments as we respond to God's Word to just fire up your passion for Jesus. Let me pray for you.

Lord Jesus,



Thank you for my brothers and sisters in this room. And I pray this morning You would light the fire in us that once was so powerfully burning; that You would be glorified in this place. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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Keywords: walk worthy, heart, dark, truth

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