

Be the Church (Eph 3:10) pt 5 Upward  Inward  Outward 

Intro: Stefan Duerksen, Lead Pastor **PRAY FOR OFFERING**

Church-Wide Prayer: Prayer for Kristjansson family (Rom 15:13): Peace, comfort, healing & hope

- Thrainn Kristjansson passed away this past week. The funeral will be Tuesday at 1pm here at the church. He leaves behind 2 sons Viking married to LeFawn with 6 kids – they’ve been a part of our church family for the past decade! and Kristjan married to Duneda with 2 kids.
 - Pray for comfort and hope in Christ
 - Pray for strength as they say “good-bye”
 - Pray for Jesus to meet with the kids and grandkids and give them peace
- **Oct 7 marks 1 year since Hamas terrorists** crossed the boarder and targeted civilians in one of the most gruesome attacks imaginable. 1200 people were brutally murdered. Many after being tortured and raped. Another 250 were taken as hostage, of which, 100 are still being held captive. The subsequent war that has resulted has cost many more civilian lives, terrorists and military.
- Pray for Israel – peace, to accept Jesus as Messiah, protection and release of the hostages!
 - There have been many reports of miracles in Israel this past year!
- Pray for the families effected in the war. Many struggle with anxiety and live in fear while trying to mourn the loss of loved ones and normal life. Pray for them to meet Jesus! the COMFORTER!

INTRO: QUESTION: Are you a task person? Or, relationship person? A thinker? Or, feeler?

What is eternal life? KNOWING GOD – relationships are paramount to God! 1) relationships with Him – 2) relationships with each other in his family & 3) relationships with those He desires to save!

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.

As we talk lots about MISSION & PURPOSE (task) we must build that ALL on Love for God and people!

TITLE: Upward  **Inward**  **Outward** 

Jesus modeled his work through three types of relationships.

Luke 6:12-16 In those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray (UP), and He spent the night in prayer to God. When daylight came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them (IN), whom He also designated as apostles: ...

Mark 6:30-32 ... And He said to them, “Come with Me privately to a solitary place, and let us rest for a while.” (IN) For many people were coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. (OUT) So they went away in a boat by themselves to a solitary place.

Mark 6:37-44 But Jesus told them, “You give them something to eat.” (IN/OUT) ... And after checking, they said, “Five—and two fish.” ..., Jesus spoke a blessing and broke the loaves. ... And He divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. And there were five thousand men who had eaten the loaves. (IN/OUT)

Mark 6:45-46 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd. After bidding them farewell, He went up on the mountain to pray. (UP)

Luke 22:14-16 When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with His apostles. And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before My suffering. For I tell you that I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." (IN – *Jesus was more intimate and did life with the 12 – shared his heart*)

Matthew 26:37-38 He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee (James & John) and began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is consumed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me." (IN)

Luke 22:41-46 And He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, where He knelt down and prayed, "Father, if You are willing, take this cup from Me. Yet not My will, but Yours be done." (UP) Then an angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And in His anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground. When Jesus rose from prayer and returned to the disciples, He found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" He asked. "Get up and pray so that you will not enter into temptation." (UP/IN)

Jesus modeled three types: 1) priority – relationship with God! 2) relationships with other believers – God's family and THEN 3) Relationships with others – where we minister and share the gospel to invite them into God's family!

Church = God's family – Family of God – we are called to engage all three aspects of relationships as Jesus did!

A. UPWARD

IF YOU MISS THIS: your life will be **POWERLESS**

John 5:19 o Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing by Himself, unless He sees the Father doing it. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does.

- Jesus modeled that our DOING in this life comes FIRST out of the UP relationship with God!

John 15:1-8 ...Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me... The one who remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing.

Too many Christians live a POWERLESS life and suffer as a result. Regardless of the reason: busyness, shame, ignorance, no desire, etc. the result is the same.

The single most important thing you can do in this life. KNOW GOD. (Matthew 7:23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness!')

Reflection Questions: how is my UP relationship

1. Do I know Jesus? (if not – you can enter His family today!)
2. Have I been baptized? Coming up in Nov! sign up!
3. Am I living in the power of the Holy Spirit?

4. Am I obedient to God's promptings?
5. Do I hear God through the Bible & prayer? Do I make time for this?
6. Am I living in peace? Or, fear?

STEP 1: The Hearing God seminar! (UP/IN) (Are you wrestling with questions like?)

1. **Does God still speak today?** Maybe it's new to you! MAYBE you were here during our split and since then you have questions – you are wondering, “if God speaks, how did that happen?” come learn what the BIBLE says about God speaking and how it's done!
2. **Why do I need to hear God's voice?** (Maybe you feel your life is good as it is! You're comfortable – Hearing God will not let you stay comfortable!)
3. **How can I protect myself from abuse of the gifts?** (GROUNDING – THE BIBLE IS THE PRIMARY WAY TO HEAR GOD – guard rails!)
4. **How does God speak?** Different ways in which God speaks
5. **How to listen to God's voice for guidance and stay BALANCED?**

Details: Seminar starts NEXT WEEK SUNDAY during the 9am! Sign up online! NEXT WEEK.

- Attend the 9am Hearing God – then attend the 11am service – convenient! 😊
- You want to do UP & IN? BRING A FRIEND or COME AS A SMALL GROUP! Or bring your FAMILY!
- Cost? FREE – We are the Church! We want to EQUIP YOU TO BE THE CHURCH.

B. INWARD ←

If you MISS this: you will be **ISOLATED & LIMITED** in your ability to live out your faith!

Jesus prioritized the 12 – he did life with them. **He then further had 3** – Peter, James and John.. who he went even deeper with. These were the guys with him in his darkest hour.

Jesus invested in his INWARD relationships. We must invest in our INWARD relationships!

Small Groups (Church Community): Join one! Start one! Invest in family! (personal & church)

- **Serve each other** – lost your job, someone is sick, relational problems, struggles, etc. the GROUP – how can we help you?
- **Worship & Prayer** – BIG C is great! But gathering with believers, friends, family and worshipping together? Singing! Praying for individual needs! WOW!
- **Word** – read, obey & share – small groups is where we can practice this together! And hold each other accountable!
- **Accountability** – confess sins, share insecurities & weakness, challenge each other in our obedience steps, deal with past hurts, KNOW & BE KNOWN!

1 John... highlights the importance of FELLOWSHIP. With God and with other believers! The best defense against FALSE doctrine? FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD & HIS PEOPLE. (Eph 4 shares the same – but uses the word UNITY between both relationships to describe the same thing)

In John's day people proclaiming to be believers were spreading a false doctrine (Ephesus): 1) The humanness or divinity of Jesus AND 2) They lessened the seriousness of sin..

The answer? Walk in the light! Fellowship with God! And fellowship with other believers DEFINED by confessing sins together, loving each other, obeying Jesus ALL as a response to His LOVE for us.

Reflection Questions: how are my IN relationships?

1. Do I have close relationships with my family? Friends? Church family?
2. Do we confess sin, study Scripture, pray, hold each other accountable and serve each other?
3. Do I love the Church? God's FAMILY
4. Am I vulnerable with others?
5. Am I resting enough? Keeping my promises?

STEPS: two steps – Small groups! Set Free!

STEP 1: The Set Free! (Are you wrestling with...) (UP/IN)

1. **Addictions, life controlling behaviors, character issues, sin?**
2. **Brokenness, past wounds, and suffering from anxiety, depression, despair and hopelessness?**
 - a. You have unhealed relationships that are keeping you from moving forward?
3. **You want to hear God's voice through Scripture and prayer better?**
4. **Want to grow in spiritual warfare?**
 - a. Understand how to wield spiritual weapons that Paul said have "divine power to demolish strongholds"?
5. **Are you desperate to KNOW & BE KNOWN!?**
 - a. *You've carried secrets and hidden behind masks and feel totally isolated from God and his family?*
6. **SIGN UP FOR SET FREE** – I'll be leading this next one as it is taking place CRI Weekend

Set Free is Nov 1-2. Sign up on website under the EVENTS & SIGN UP tab!

- Cost? 60\$ to cover food and materials – IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD THAT – NO PROBLEM – sign up anyways!
- You want to do UP & IN? BRING A FRIEND or COME AS A SMALL GROUP! Or bring your FAMILY! We are the Church! We want to EQUIP YOU TO BE THE CHURCH..

STEP 2: Join a small group! (UP/IN) (Are you isolated and looking for Christian community?)

1. **Connect Cell – MONDAYS** - Eunice Exec Director is leading Connect Cell – all the things we defined Healthy Small groups are practiced here! Bring a friend! Come alone! Come as a group! Connect is a starting point!
2. **Collective – YA** – need or want community?? MONDAYS – show up!
 - a. **BETA TONIGHT!**
3. **HSYN – Thursdays** – you are in HS? Not sure how you fit?

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS – COME! bring a friend! Come by yourself! WE WANT YOU THERE. In fact, WE NEED YOU. Just like you need us. We want you. We want to KNOW YOU. And for you to KNOW US.

C. OUTWARD ➡

If we MISS this: we will be COMFORTABLE & PURPOSELESS

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

2 Peter 3:9-10 The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Reflection Questions: how are my OUT relationships?

1. Do I have a heart for the lost?
2. Am I serving the needs of others?
3. Do I leave margin in my life for unbelievers?
4. Am I ashamed of the gospel?
5. Do I give generously of my money and time?

STEP: Two! IN OUR CHURCH! Plus you can do MORE in the community! (ALSO – “each one, reach one”!)

STEP 1: Food & Clothing Drive! OUT/IN

1. **Are you in a tight spot? Know someone who could use a hand? COME!**
2. **OCT 18 is the give away day! Show up at 9am and come throughout the day!**
3. **SERVING** – we need volunteers to SERVE THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY! Sort clothes, set up, organizing, etc. SIGN UP ON WEBSITE under EVENTS & SIGN-UPS!
4. **Last year we had 2653 people come through and we gave away 1789 food hampers. BE THE CHURCH (IN/OUT)**
5. **You can SERVE, GIVE, RECEIVE, BRING SOMEONE!!**
 - a. **Do you have extra clothes? Bring them to the trailer!**
6. **Give from your best – is there an item of clothing you LOVE that you can GIVE?**

Step 2: Church Renewal International Weekend! (OUT)

1. **The foundation of prayer, hearing God, Prayer Summits, Set Free and Empower!** These PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES have helped us and MANY churches around the world!
2. **CRI Weekend is our chance to HOST other churches & SHOW THEM what we’ve experienced**
3. **Pastors and their teams come from other churches and EXPERIENCE – Set Free, then Sunday morning, then Prayer Summit in the AFTERNOON.**
 - a. I have heard countless times – “it wasn’t you or your dad that brought us here – it was YOUR PEOPLE” – **guys! It was YOU! Many of you.**
 - b. Example: confession, greeting, serving, prayer summit!
4. **YOU CAN JOIN US IN SERVING THE LARGER BODY OF CHRIST!!!** Sign up online! To volunteer!
 - a. **OR** – simply show up and engage! – Set Free, Sunday service and Sunday PM Prayer Summit – you can be a part of the OUTWARD mission of our church and Church Renewal!

As a Church - We have MUCH to learn. Many areas needed for GROWTH. We are far from PERFECT.

We are BROKEN – yet BEAUTIFUL. The Church is the Bride of Christ. The Family of God.

Will you join us in building up the Body of Christ, the Church? And being a light in our nation?

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM

MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!

Care@mysouthland.com

SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2024

Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Israel & Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal**: Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers