



Week 7 | October 28 Sermon

Community: This week, take turns in your GROUP sitting in the “HOT SEAT.”

Would you be so bold as to go around the room and encourage each person? Use this time to affirm one another in who God created them to be. Tell them how you see them. Tell them something you appreciate about them. Tell them something you’ve enjoyed getting to know about them. Go beyond superficial compliments like “I like your smile,” and “You have good taste in music.” Listen to the Holy Spirit as He may guide you in what to affirm in the person. Don’t put a lot of pressure on yourself; just let it flow! Have grace with one another as some of you have not known each other long. Be bold and continue to grow your relationship through this act of affirmation and genuine humility. You may even want to have a special place be the “hot seat.” This feels awkward at first, but I promise you that it will take your GROUP to a new level. I have never done this and had it end badly. Any time we can encourage one another intentionally and somewhat publically, good things happen. :)

Leaders, end your time with prayer to seal in hearts the truth of what was shared. Ask for reminders of true identity in Christ for your groupies throughout the week.

Sermon Title: Should Foreigners Run this Church? | Text: Acts 6:1-7

Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Key sentence: If Acts 5 emphasized the implications of the risen Christ’s “power ministry,” Acts 6-8 emphasizes Christ’s cross-cultural ministry.”

Question: What are your thoughts about the book of Acts emphasis on “power ministry” and cross-cultural ministry?”

Read Acts 6:1-7. To what does the Holy Spirit draw your attention? Why might He be doing this today?

When Satan does not succeed in stopping the church with a frontal assault, he then probes and attacks from within the Body of Christ. Are you surprised that his attack centered on racial and ethnic differences? Is this happening today?

Where are the dividing lines of tension, jealousy and power among believers in the Third Church family? How are you helping to bring unity?

Will you spend time praying for unity, welcome and fellowship even as we seek to be(come) Kingdom sent ones?

Sanctuary Discussion Questions::

Tom talked about all of the different "tribes" to which we belong (i.e. ethnic, family, gender, sports team, school, social, interest, etc.). Name some of the "tribes" with which you most emotionally and personally identify yourself.

When we identify with one particular tribe, we typically are differentiating ourselves from people in other tribes. Are you willing to identify other tribes that create feelings within you of discomfort, confusion, or desire to avoid?

Have you ever felt belittled, discriminated against by someone from a different "tribe"? What were your feelings and reactions?

There were five scriptures referenced across the breadth of scripture and history that make clear God's love and purpose is for all tribes. Take time to read each reference. Have we embraced this concept? Conveniently ignored it? Qualified it? In what ways should this motivate change personally and corporately?

Abram: Gen 12:1-3

Law: Ex 22:21; 23:9

Prophets: Is 49:6

Jesus: Acts 1:8

Apostles: Gal 3:28

Revelation: 5:9, 14:6

Jesus said that we will be marked as followers by our "love" which we've just read is expansive beyond personal, tribal comfort zones. What words might we have conveniently substituted for "love" in the practice of our faith? What practical ways is Holy Spirit convicting you to be a better example of His expansive, boundary crossing love towards others?

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. **Hebrews 10:24-25***

GROUPS