

April 26, 2015

Make Your Mark #2 "Common Ground"

Text: Acts 4:32-37

Throughout life you are constantly faced with opportunities to sort things according to difference or according to similarity. There are times when one is needed and times when the other is needed, no question about it.

The more we learn to sort according to s_____ the more impact we will have on the world around us.

Today God is not calling us all to move into a commune together. But he is calling us to follow the example set by the early Christians in their attitudes toward one another.

Acts 4:32 All the believers were o_____ in heart and mind.

When we live in unity with others, the world pays attention.

There is power_____. When we build on a foundation of common ground with others not only in this church, but in this community we are able to increase the impact that we have on the world around us. Ref: John 13:35

Three ways we can find common ground with others.

#1 Let's focus on how we're the s_____ before we think about how we're different.

It's not that we need to pretend that differences don't exist, or that differences shouldn't be resolved. It's that we first identify our common bond.

In dealing with anyone and everyone, the first question to ask is: How are we the s_____? What goals and beliefs and dreams and ideas do we s_____?

2. Let's focus on what we're for, rather than what we're a_____

Collective hate draws a crowd, but the problem is that it draws the w_____ c_____.

You can't make a positive difference in the world if you define yourself only by what you're against.

The question is: W_____ are you for? W_____ are you for? Surround yourself with those who are for the same things that you are for.

3. Let's focus more on the m_____ and less on the m_____.

The majors:

- Jesus is Lord, he is risen from the dead, and through him we have forgiveness of sins and are saved by his grace.
- Jesus is Lord, he is alive, and through him broken lives can be put back together.

When you major on the minors, you can't see what's big, what's important, what really matters?

It's tempting to go through life majoring on the minors -- but if you do, you will never make a lasting mark.