



OUR PURPOSE (WHY WE EXIST)

Our reason for existence is "to make Christ known and to disciple the knowing."

OUR PASSIONS (WHO WE LOVE)

GOD, THE CHURCH, THE UN-CHURCHED

We love God because He is uniquely beautiful, infinitely worthy, and supremely valuable. We love the church because it is more than a building; it is the "body of Christ" and the "brotherhood of the saints," a collection of redeemed men and women who find common ground in their love of Jesus. We love the un-churched because God loves the un-churched, and He wants to use us to make His love known.

OUR PRACTICES (WHAT WE DO)

WORSHIP, MINISTRY, MISSIONS

Because we love God, we worship Him (Father, Son, and Spirit) through relevant music and engaging preaching; knowing that He alone deserves our worship. Because we love our brothers and sisters in Christ, we do ministry (acts of service by the church for the church), knowing that the world will see our love for each other as proof of our love for God. We engage in missional acts of service because we know that eternity is real and really long.

Our hope is to bring the life-changing gospel of Jesus to those who don't know God, so they can experience forgiveness, and spend eternity in grateful worship of God, instead of experiencing God's wrath in the eternal torment of Hell.

In His Steps

When God is Not in Control: Emotions

Matthew 5:43-48

GOALS:

1. To grow in relationship with God.
2. To grow in relationship with others.
3. To grow our groups and start new groups.

FACILITATOR: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on last week's message. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. And remember, a facilitator's goal is to promote increased biblical awareness, as well as individual self-awareness— a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and transformation.

REVIEW: What is the current series? Why are we doing this? What is this week's title? Why is this subject important to study?

(Each question needs to be read in its entirety first, then broken down question by question)

- Pastor James began with an illustration about a bulb that looked good on the outside, but was defective on the inside. What are some other examples? How is that relevant to our study?

BIBLE STUDY AND APPLICATION:

Read Matt 5:43-48

- What is a cultural Christian? How is verse 43 reflective of that? What makes a Biblical Christian different? What role have our emotions played in which kind we have been?
- Based on verses 44-47, who should we love and pray for? Why is that so difficult? When we don't, who does that affect? How? How does the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) help our understanding?
- In verse 48, what does it not mean to be perfect? What *does* it mean? If God needs to be in control of my emotions for me to be perfect, what feelings am I struggling with that I am willing to admit to and I would like prayer for?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dec.6th – Life Group Semester Ends (Last Week)

Dec.13th-Jan.3rd – Life Group Sign-ups

Dec.24th – Advent Celebration – Worship Center – 6:30pm