

Fears About the Future

Throw all your anxiety onto him, because he cares about you. (1 Peter 5:7, CEB)

Well, Cleveland sports fans, it happened again! Last Sunday, we all found out, to our great disappointment that our beloved #23 will no longer be a Cavalier, again. We have enjoyed 11 incredible years of watching LeBron James play NBA basketball here in NE Ohio at a level that few other players have achieved. But that time has come to an end.

So, what will our team look like without him? What will business in the city look like after his departure? Will people still show up for basketball games? Will our team make the playoffs anytime soon? It's too early to tell, but I'm sure that, for many, there is fear of what this change will bring.

Fear of change is an interesting dynamic. We are wired to resist change. I have learned that it's not really the change, itself, that people struggle with, but rather the transition which follows the change that is so difficult for people to navigate.

The first time that LeBron left Cleveland, the fear of change led many people to express themselves in hate-filled ways (we remember the famous video of the jersey burning, right?). This time, our fears seem to have been tempered somewhat, as we weren't so surprised to find out that he was leaving.

This coming Sunday (7/8), in each of our worship services, we will explore several topics that lead us to fear what lies ahead in the future including apocalyptic thinking, missing out, and finances. Another one of those dynamics is, of course, the fear of change. We live in a world where the only true constant seems to be change. So, how do we deal with it?

Specifically for our congregation, we may have the sense that changes need to be made to help us better accomplish our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. I know that I do. As a part of my sermon time, I'll be inviting your participation in a brief dialogue about our Sunday morning schedule (how it relates to our worship and discipleship options). I hope you will be present to take part.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor David Rittgers