



FORMED FOR THIS MOMENT

Revival | 2.15.26

Libin Abraham

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Libin Abraham 0:00

Thank you all for standing with us. You may be seated. Thank you for leaning into this moment as we celebrate and grieve the life of one of our great elders and leaders. And funeral arrangements will be sent out soon. Tomorrow, we have a team leading to India, including myself, and so we'll be doing the service right after we get back. Friday was an interesting day, because I was doing a bedside liturgy with Patty and her family, surrounded with a few others as we drew her life support. And then I came into united to be with this amazing group of students, and the connection for me with students, let me tell you, Patty prayed for you long before you were even born. She had a vision like others in this place who are with Jesus, of a new generation of Christ followers, passionate worshiping Jesus with all that they have. And it's been a beautiful weekend as we celebrate your life and your faith in Jesus is exactly what Patty what I wanted. We've been sitting in this theme that we are the masterpiece of God, and I've had the joy of teaching throughout the weekend. And before I jump in, I just want to let you know church that in this United weekend, there have been 20 people who have committed to follow Jesus for the first time and be baptized. So I think we ought to celebrate that. And in fact, students, I want to ask you to do something bold in front of the whole church. If you took a step of step of faith to follow Jesus or to recommit your life to Jesus this weekend, would you stand where you are? We want to praise God for you. I know there's many of you, so stand where you are if you took a step of faith to follow Jesus, look around that. This is why we do what we do. This is what it's all about. Amen, praise God. Welcome to the family of God. Welcome to this church community. We love you so much. We can't wait to celebrate your story. You may be seated all weekend long. We sat in Jeremiah 18 where God tells Jeremiah to go to a house where a potter is working away at the wheel. So Friday night, we looked at the potter, who is God, the potter? And Saturday morning, we looked at this house and environment conducive for our shaping and growth. Last night, we looked at how God, though we may be flawed in clay, he doesn't discard us. He redeems and he restores us, and it is a beautiful thing God. God reshapes and restores us as His masterpiece. Well, just as God shapes individuals and forms us as individual people, God ultimately forms a people. He shapes a community of believers to be his masterpiece. In fact, Ephesians two, chapter two, verse 10, it speaks of the church, and here's what Paul says about a collective community of believers in Ephesians 2:10 that we are His workmanship, not just I, but we. So it's a collective we, the Church of Jesus, comprised of in the first century, both Jews and Gentiles, and like today, young and old, new believers and experienced saints that we together collectively, we are the workmanship, or the masterpiece of God, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God has prepared ahead of time for us to do that word workmanship, or masterpiece, literally, in the Greek is *poema*, from where we get the word poem. Because when God thinks about His Church, His faith family, God has written out a beautiful line by line rhythm that he imagines for His church, God is the grand artist who shapes a masterpiece for His glory and for his honor. The refrain of Scripture is not I assembled you, but rather I formed you. Because God weaves together people from different nations and groups of people from different backgrounds, and he makes us one church. So today, with our students in the room and with many kids in the room, I want to give to our church, what I believe is a vision moment, a vision sermon about this church that God has, I believe formed for this moment. We are formed for this moment. If you think about it, we live in some really interesting days. They are days of great opportunity, because we have more access to information and technology than any generation prior. You can literally reach the ends of the earth with your fingertips, and at the same time, these can be dark days and perilous times. We see division and hostility and darkness on full display. And we may wonder, God, what are you doing in the world? But friends, I want to just tell you, the Potter is still at work on the wheel. God is still. Shaping and forming his bride and God. In the last 50 years of our church's existence, he, I believe, has formed us for this moment. He has shaped us for the time we are in, for the generation we are alive in. He has formed us for this moment. In the last five years of our church's life, a lot has changed. Okay, things look a little different. Some amazing new

wonderful people have come into the life of our church. New ministries have emerged, and new cultural ethos has formed this new generation. They're here with us now, and we didn't force any change. It wasn't pastor Libby trying to make it into a different church, and I know the Spirit of God has been beautifully at work, and in this season of revolutionary change, my heart today is to name the anchors we're putting in that both will define for us who are we becoming As a church, and clarify for us some things that won't change. As we say in Texas, there ain't some there's some things that ain't going to change. Okay, so I want to name some of those things that I believe God is forming us as a people into, and today, name three key values of our church and five core or four core ethics of how we live in this moment we are in so three key values and four key ethics. For us, we begin with what we value. What is it that we as a church we hold dearly to and we value? Our value captures our affections. It directs our attention. It causes us to be energized about certain things, and for us, the answer to what we value actually begins with a who. Who is it that we value? And the who is none other than the person of Jesus. As a church, we are shaped and formed by nothing else in the world. We are shaped and formed by the person of Jesus, we center our lives around him as we sang this morning. In fact, this is not my idea. This is the witness of the New Testament. So Hebrews chapter one reads like this, long ago, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us how by his son, the last word of the Father is to speak to us through His Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. Paul writes in Colossians, these words about the preeminence of Christ. Colossians one, verse 15 says he Jesus is the image of the invisible God. So how do you want to see the invisible God? You look at Jesus, the first born of all creation. For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, where the thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things have been created through him. And for him, you, we, we were created through Jesus. And for Jesus, he is also the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the first born from the dead, so that he might come to have what first place in everything. See, this is our heart for you, that Jesus wouldn't be one of the many things you give your heart to, but that he would have first place in everything. He would have first place in our life, in our families, in our marriage, that Christ would have first place. Spoke to a member of our church who had invited her friend to come visit, and that guest had been visiting for a few weeks, and the guest told her, you know, gone to a lot of churches, but y'all sure do talk about Jesus a lot at this church. I'm not sure that was meant to be a compliment. I took it as one. What else are we going to talk about the Cowboys, maybe, but not so much we want to be centered on the person of who Jesus is. When we say Jesus is preeminent, we are not saying we value the father less or the spirit less. Actually, what we're saying is Jesus is the one who takes us to the Father, and Jesus is the one who has sent us the spirit. So if you want to know the Father more, and want to walk in the Spirit more, know Jesus more, he is the gateway to the rest of the Trinity. So holding on to him, cherishing him is to cherish the Triune God. In fact, Jesus, in the book of John, chapter 14, has a long discussion about his relationship with the Father. And Jesus said to His followers, if you know me, guess what? You will also know the Father. If you've seen me, you've seen the Father. So as we know Jesus, see him, fix our eyes on Him, we know the Father.

Libin Abraham 9:51

Some of you know that I've been trying to learn golf, and operative word is still trying. Unfortunately, some of our kind members have been helping me, and one of the things they keep saying is, you know, just. Have one swing. Thought, I'm like, that's the problem. I have 1000 thoughts when I'm trying to take a swing, but they say have one swing. Thought, well, in our faith life, the writer of Hebrews gives us one swing thought for life, one thing to be fixed on. And here's what he says in Hebrews 12, verse two, keeping our eyes where on? Let's say it a little louder, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. If you want to live this life of faith, well, think on Jesus. Fix your attention on Jesus, put your heart's affection, your devotion, cherish him, and you will finish well. You will live well. You will love Well, cherish Jesus. Sometimes, I think there are aspects of Jesus we are drawn to. So we may love his love. We may be drawn to his mercy or the miracles he does or the power he has, but we specifically put in here that we cherish the person of Jesus. Why? Because we don't just want to have a caricature of Jesus. We want the full character of Jesus. We want the full personhood of who Jesus is, fully God, fully man. He is, all of those things, and we need to encounter him as a living, breathing person, the person of Jesus. I find myself in apologetic conversations, which simply means you're defending your faith and explaining the faith of Jesus and in Jesus. And I love this conversation. It's needed. We need to be trained in how we defend our faith. But at the end of every one of those conversations, I end with this look, I can't fully explain Jesus to you, but you can't encounter him for yourself. So much about Jesus, we're going to be flawed in trying to explain. But ultimately, our faith is now built on an explanation. It is built on an encounter, an encounter with a person who changed our life or changed our story. So our aim as a church is to invite you to encounter Him, to cherish and hold on to Jesus with everything you have. We value the person of Jesus. Second of all, we value life in the Spirit. Life in the Spirit, as Jesus was preparing his disciples for his departure, he spent his last sermon before the cross introducing them to the Holy Spirit, because He knew that they could not live in him,

abide in him apart from the person of the Holy Spirit. He even said something so audacious. He said, It's better for you that I go away, because if I don't go away, I cannot send the Holy Spirit to you, but when I go away, I'm going to send the Holy Spirit. And when He comes, He won't just be with you, he'll be in you. He will be inside of us. And that is what gives us hope for this generation, because the same spirit that was in Jesus is in you students. You don't have a lesser version of the Holy Spirit. You don't have a junior. You don't have a mini version of the Spirit. If you are in Christ, you have the same spirit that rose Christ from the dead. Guess where he lives in you and in me. There are two things that the Spirit does in our life. First, the spirit transforms us. He changes us from the inside out. He transforms us. Romans chapter eight is one of the clearest chapters on life and the Holy Spirit. And here's what Romans teaches us, that the spirit sets us free. Do you need freedom today? It's the Holy Spirit who sets us free. He gives us life. Nothing in this world, nothing in the accolades or the prestigious things or the possessions of this world, will give us life. Only the Spirit leads to life because he leads us to Jesus. The Spirit dwells within us. He leads us not into confusion, but he leads us into sonship, because he confirms our adoption as children of God. When we are afraid, when we don't know what to do, the spirit from within causes us to cry out, Abba, Father, Dad, that's the work of the Holy Spirit when we are feeling weak and empty. He strengthens us when we feel the struggle with sin. He sanctifies us and He empowers you to overcome the very sin in us when we don't know what to pray. The Holy Spirit intercedes. When you feel a loss of words like I have this week, He intercedes for us. And when you think this is the end of the story, it's an end in death. It's going to end in hopelessness. It is the Holy Spirit who secures our resurrection. He is a deposit guaranteeing what is to come, he tells us, oh, it's not over. He points us to a future resurrection where we are joined with Christ and those who have died in Christ. All of this is the work of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit bears in and through our life the fruit of the Spirit. He makes us be a person of love and joy. And of self control and goodness and faithfulness and jealousy, it's him who does that. He empowers us. He transforms us. And the second thing is that the Holy Spirit empowers us. He gives you power you don't have. The Holy Spirit isn't just given to us for us. No, no. He is the very person and the power that moves us to bring the gospel to people who most need it. Jesus said in Acts one, verse eight, you will receive power when, when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses. And the word is, you'll be even martyrs. You'll be able to be bold and courageous in your faith, even if it comes with death and persecution, because the Holy Spirit empowers you to proclaim the gospel, where, in Jerusalem, Judea Samaria, to the ends of the earth, in places you're not comfortable, in people groups that don't agree with you, it's the spirit who empowers you for this New Covenant life. So don't you think for a moment you are powerless, because you are power filled. The moment the Spirit comes to live inside of you, the world experiences the gospel through spirit filled people. So we cherish Jesus, we live in the Holy Spirit. And lastly, as we FOLLOW JESUS IN and THROUGH THE SPIRIT, we hold on to the truth of Scripture, because the scripture that reveals to us what the father is like, who Jesus is and how the Spirit works in us. We don't create the scriptures. We don't curate the scriptures. The scriptures have been written and revealed to us so we receive it as it is. We don't form it. It forms us. We are shaped by it. Our convictions are formed by it. Our desires are compelled by it. Our passions are tailored made by the scriptures and the Spirit of God working in them as a church. We don't stand above the Word of God or beside the Word of God. It's not one resource among many, it is the source, and we stand under the Holy Word of God. Paul wrote to young Timothy these words in Second Timothy, chapter three, verse 16, All scripture. Guess what? Even the passages, sometimes I don't like all of it has been inspired by God, and it's profitable, it's good. It's needed for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness. I need the word to correct me. Sometimes I need it to train me in righteousness and to rebuke some parts of me that is good and loving of God, to preserve the scriptures for it, so that we can be made complete and equipped for every good work that's the purpose of God preserving the scriptures for us. It doesn't just inform us, it forms us. Sometimes people hold the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's word intention, as if we have to pick and choose between them. But notice the words of Jesus in John, chapter four, verse 24 that God is Spirit, and those who worship Him will worship How in spirit and in truth, not in spirit or in truth, not sometimes in the spirit and sometimes in truth, we are always the kind of worship the Father desires is worship in the spirit and in the truth. To have the word without the spirit is to have cold intellectualism. To have the Spirit without the word is to have ungrounded emotionalism. But true worship, true transformation comes when the Holy Spirit of God illuminates the written word of God to us. I mentioned this quote before by RT Kendall. He said this, there are word churches and there are spirit churches. There has been a great divorce in the church between Word and Spirit, and like any divorce, some kids go with the mom and some kids go with the dad. But revival happens when you bring the two back together. I pray that one of our distinctives here at Bent Tree is that we're a place that is flowing in the presence and power and the gifts of the Spirit, and we will always preach the Word of God unadulterated. We will proclaim Christ crucified as revealed in the scriptures. Amen. That is who we are, spirit and truth, hand in hand.

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So these are values that shape us and inform us. How do we live? Because, most likely, your friends, your neighbors, your co workers, aren't going to experience Jesus by the things you say you value. They experience Jesus by how you actually live among them, by how we behave. So I want to give us four ethics of how I hope is our what I hope is our shared expectation. You expect this of me and I expect this of you, all of us together, committing to this is how we live as a faith community, as a church formed for this moment, first of all, that we are people compelled by love. We'll start there. We are people compelled by love now. You think, yeah, everyone says they're loving. That's cute, but friends, this is way more than a sentiment. Biblical gospel, love is a mighty force. It's the force that changed the world for God so loved the world he gave. It's the force that compelled people to give their life for the sake of the gospel. Paul said it like this in Second Corinthians, chapter five, verse 14, for the love of Christ compels us. The love of Christ compels us. Why? Since we have reached this conclusion that one died for all, and therefore all died, and he died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised. Paul says we're so moved by love, and the love of Jesus has convinced us, man God came, he lived, he died, and he died so the people who are dead in their sins, who are lost in their ways, could find hope and resurrection in him. So Paul says, this love moves us. It compels us to go, at the cost of our own life, to tell people there is a better way to live. There is a God who loves you. There is a God who came to die for you. Come join in on the family of God. This love is costly. This love requires sacrifice, but the church of Jesus has always been compelled by love more than it has ever been compelled by fear or anything else. It's the love of Christ that compels us. Jesus gave to His disciples a marker right before the cross. He said, This is how you are going to be distinguished in the world. It's not going to be by the great sermons you preach. It's not going to be by the miracles you perform or the buildings you meet in the One distinguishing marker of the church was a four letter word love. So Jesus said in John 13 verse, 34 I give you a new command love one another how just as I have loved you, that's what makes it new, those six words, just as I have loved you, this is the pattern of our love. This is the source of our love. This is the power of our love. So you are also to love one another by this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. Whole lot of things that the church is known for, but I wonder if this is what the church at large is known for. I can't control the church at large, but I think we can determine what will we be known as, and may we be known as this. And remember, these are the words that Jesus gave to His disciples after he washed their feet. And that foot washing ceremony included Jesus washing the feet of Judas and Peter. I would have just skipped right over Judas and Peter, because Judas is about to betray Jesus. Peter is about to betray Him three times, but Jesus still washes the feet of his betrayers and deniers. That's the force of gospel love. This is not just mere convenient love. This is the kind of love that opens our heart to serve our enemy, the kind of love that opens our homes to be hospitable, opens our life in service, opens our hands in generosity, the kind of love. There is no other explanation, but that must be the Father's love flowing in and through our life. So this is the love that marks us, church, compelled by Christ, centered gospel love and in a world driven by hate and other things, a church known for its love will be a signpost of a different kingdom that we don't believe, that we don't belong to this kingdom from below, but we belong to this kingdom from above, this kingdom of God. Second of all, how we live, not just compelled by love, but we pursue unity in our diversity, unity in diversity. The New Testament Church was diverse, just like our churches and other churches are diverse in generation, young and old, diverse with men and women. And in those times, they had slave and free. They had Greek and Jew and Gentiles, people who grew up in the ways of God through Judaic faith, and people who are brand new coming from pagan religions, coming to the body of Christ, and yet the church didn't have one church for the Jews and another church for the Gentiles. No, I had one church because unity was not like this bonus version of the gospel. Unity in the midst of diversity, was the very result of the gospel. In fact, this is what Paul says in Ephesians, chapter two, verse 13. But now in Christ, Jesus, you who are far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ, for he is our peace who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility in his flesh. Which he made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that he might hear this create in himself one new man from the two resulting in peace. The goal of the gospel of Jesus, dying and rising from the grave, was to form in himself one new man, one humanity, literally, one race of people, where Jews and Gentiles slave and free, men and women, they came together and they were one in Christ, it's the cross that causes us to think beyond our tribe. It's the cross that causes us to go beyond our politics. It's a cross that causes us to reach beyond our own ethnicity and race. Why? Because we're one new race of people covered in the blood of Jesus. We're one new humanity in Christ. And Paul says it is only the cross that will result in peace. So what is the result? What is the hope for a world divided between ethnicities and racism, between social classes? It's sad. What is the hope? It's nothing but Christ, who was crucified for all mankind. So if you're longing for peace, only the cross can lead to the peace we long for. Let me tell you the New Testament church, they struggled with this because it was new and it was foreign. That's why the New Testament letters are contained filled with so many admonitions and corrections for unity. For instance, in Romans, 15, verse seven, Paul says, Therefore, welcome one another. If Paul had to tell a church that, that means they were probably not doing a good job of welcoming one another, and there was some prejudice, there was some

misunderstood expectations. There were some misunderstandings, period. So he says, Welcome one another. Why? Because Christ also welcomed you to the glory of God. If there's anyone different than God, it's us. He is holy, we're not. He is righteous, we're not. And yet, through the cross, He welcomed a whole different group of people to be one with Him. And so because we have been welcomed into Christ's family, we adopt and we welcome each other. The literal word for welcome is accept. We belong with one another. We accept one another because we have been accepted in Christ. We know unity isn't uniformity. We know oneness isn't sameness, and sometimes you have to have unity even in the midst of disagreement. Unity doesn't make our differences go away. But Unity says while the world keeps getting more and more divided, the Spirit of Jesus is for the church to become more and more united. This kind of unity becomes a genuine apologetic for our faith in Jesus. It proves to the world that Jesus is unique in who he is, which means the division in the church also causes doubt in the world. It's our oneness that becomes a proclamation of this one gospel. So church, this world, gets more and more apart and divided. You and I, we belong to one family. We're part of one kingdom. Why? Because we have one name that is above every other name. We're part of a move of God where one day in history, every earthly kingdom and every earthly party will be nothing but a footnote in human history. But Jesus, along with this bride, the Church will reign forever and ever, and I just want to be fully committed to that team as long as I live Amen. Jesus is one Lord, one father,

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one spirit. So we contend to be one church. Third of all the way we live is we are sent on mission. We're sent we are missional people. Some of you may be gay. It's just the pastors who are sent, right? Just the seminary train people. No no. Being sent on mission is every one of our core identity. And I know this because when Jesus invited his first followers to follow him, here is the baseline definition of discipleship. He said this in Matthew four, verse 19, follow me, and I will make you fish for people. It's not follow me. Some of you and others of you will be fishers of people. No, no. Follow me. And anyone who follows Jesus lives with purpose, lives on mission, to invite others into this kingdom of God. Jesus, in John 20, looked at his disciples before his departure, and he said, in John 20, verse 21 Jesus said to them, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, I also sent you think about the weight of that as the Father sent Jesus to be the incarnate presence of the world, in the world he looks to you. I'm sending you with the Father. Love. I'm sending you with the same spirit that was in Christ. You are sent. Mission is something we do. It's not something we do here and there. It is who we are. It's not that you graduate from discipleship and maybe you go into mission. No, we live as missionaries wherever we are, because that is our identity, and no one exemplified that to me more than Patty clover, because when we were doing send conversations, she was tracking like 30 cent conversations a week, putting all of us ashamed because she lived this out. Notice what Jesus said. Peace be with you. Now I send you, which means you're not sent on mission out of guilt or pressure? No, no. It's the peace of God that mobilizes you into the world on mission. When you receive peace with God. No price is too great to pay, no person too distant to reach. The peace of God propels us into the mission in our neighborhoods, in our workplaces and to the ends of the earth, we live on mission. And lastly, we're compelled by love. We're united in diversity. We're sent on mission. And every single one of us in Christ, we are gifted with purpose. You can't do this mission on your own. You need to receive and live in the gifts that God has poured into your life. And let me just tell you, every Christian has gifts. You have spiritual gifts that your Heavenly Father has equipped you with, and you need the gifts of God to build up the body of Christ and to live on mission. The scriptures talk about our spiritual gifts in these words, in first, Corinthians 12, verse four. Now, there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different ministries, but the same Lord and there are different activities, but the same God works all of them in each person, every Christian possesses spiritual gifts. They may all different. Look different. Your gift, thankfully, looks different than mine. The gift of the person next to you looks different than yours, but they're all from the same spirit. We believe that no gift is less important than the others, because every believer is equally important in the eyes of God. Verse seven says the manifestation of the gift of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good. The gifts of God are not to puff up our status. The gifts of God are to build each other up to for the common good, one and the same spirit is active in all of these distributing to each person as He wills. So I believe, students, you carry the gifts of God. Young people, older people, you possess the gifts of God, our special needs friends, they carry gifts inside of them, students and seniors, young and old, the brand new believer to the to the longest time tenured Christian. We carry gifts. We also believe that it's God who gives gifts as He wills, and when we see the gift of teaching and shepherding and leadership in our sisters, we make room for that. When we see those gifts in our sisters, we don't want to hold them back. We want to cause them to flourish. So one of the uniquenesses I've been through is brothers and sisters living out their gifts together, unhindered, fully Unleashed for the glory of God, because it's God who gives the gifts the same spirit and all of us works together, because every gift is equally needed. Students, I want you to lean in for a moment. You live in a time you're growing up in a time where the world is fractured by fear, it's filled with outrage, and people are exhausted, as so many of your peers are suspicious, they're lonely, they're searching for something. They don't even know

what they're searching for. But into that generation, into this moment, God has placed you church into this moment he has formed us. He has placed His church, our church, right into the middle of this story that we're living in, not to participate and to increase the chaos and the hostility, but to point to a different way of living to a different King. So imagine not later, sometime in the future, but now us being this kind of a church that in a world that cherishes so many futile fleeing things. We hold on to the person of Jesus above everything else, not merely as some sentiment or a slogan, no, no. He has all of our affection. He has all of our passions. We cherish Christ, crucified and risen and daily. We're living a. Life in the Holy Spirit, not relying on yesterday, not relying on last year's experiences. No no daily being prayerful and power filled, daily offering your lives in surrender to the Holy Spirit to work and move in our life. And at a time where so many are confused about what truth is, we know the truth has been revealed to us, so we remain humble, teachable and faithful to the revealed word of God for us. And at the same time, we are not a people compelled by fear that feed the outrage. We are a people compelled by love, a love a love that causes us to show up different on our campuses, a love that moves us to be a different kind of people in our workplaces, a love that gives and forgives, a love that is generous, a love that is hospitable, a love that is willing to pay the price for the cause of Jesus Christ, and here in our church, this love means you are seen and not just used. You are loved and not just leveraged. You are known and you're not just managed. And this love causes us to strive for unity, to maintain it, because it is the uniqueness of the Body of Christ. We don't ignore our differences. What we commit to oneness and unity. We fight to keep this unity. Imagine what it would look like for every person to live on mission, to be on mission wherever you are, across the street, to across the seas, bringing the Gospel wherever we go, because it burns deep within us. The mission of God 2000 years later continues with us and through us, this Good News of Jesus must be proclaimed at whatever cost. Now, lastly, every one of us in this room recognize see, we have gifts to be used in the kingdom of God. There are no extras. There are no unnecessary parts of the body. No, no. All of us are in trouble. All of us are necessary. We are needed to the mosaic that God is forming within our body. You are needed. You bring something unique into the mix that God is shaping and forming. Now I believe that when we live this kind of a church out, and we carry this vision forward, we're not going to be fighting against the culture, nor will we be trying to get along with the culture, but what will happen is that our culture will begin to be curious about what's happening in the church, and there will be a sense of awe and wonder. There will be people who don't know Jesus, but they've met you, they've heard about this church, and they begin to wonder something is happening there. I need what they've got. They've got a power beyond myself. How is it that they can come together? How is it they can love so sacrificially and give so generously? There must be a divine presence there. That's the kind of church where skeptics are curious, where believers are equipped, and where saints are sent out by the power of the Holy Spirit. I am deeply committed to being this kind of church, and being a part of this church and helping lead this church. Are you with me on this? If you are, would you stand up with me? Let's live out this vision. You.