

life groups' sermon guide outreach



Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for spiritual growth, caring for one another, and reaching out to others.

Discussion

Zech 7:9-10

Thus has the Lord of hosts said, “Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.”

What is the kindest act you performed this week?

Why do you think this verse tells us what TO do and what NOT to do?

Introduction

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

What image comes to mind when you hear the word “ambassador”?

The dictionary definition(s) of ambassador:

1. A diplomatic official of the highest rank, sent by one sovereign or state to another as its resident representative
2. An authorized messenger or representative

Using the definitions (above) and the verse from 2 Corinthians:

- To whom are ambassadors sent? People like themselves?
- By whom are they sent?
- In what ways are we, as Christians, ambassadors?
- What is our message?
- How are we to deliver it?

Bible Study

Read the following verses:

Micah 6:8

- What is God telling us to do?

Deut 10:17-19

- What reasons does God give for his commands to love others?

Ps 146:7-9

- What do we learn about God from these verses?
- These verses speak of God's actions – do we have a role to play in these actions? If so, what is that role?

Matt 6:1-2

- How do we “not practice our righteousness before men to be noticed by them” and yet represent the gospel message in these acts?

Luke 14:12-14

- Is this verse shocking to you?
- Are you aware of anyone doing this today? Give some examples.

Gal 2:9-10

- Why do you think James, Peter and John felt the need to ask Paul to “remember to the poor”?
- What was Paul's response?

Application

In the earliest days of Christianity, the Roman emperor Julian was contemptuous of Jesus's first followers. But he recognized that their generosity to the poor was making converts of many. "Nothing has contributed to the progress of the superstition of the Christians as their charity to strangers...the impious Galileans provide not only for their own poor, but for ours as well," he is quoted as saying. (Marsha Selegstein, “What Are Christians Known For?”, 10/27/10, www.breakpoint.org)

What impressed the emperor Julian? Why do you think he was impressed?

How can acts of kindness turn contempt toward the gospel into open ears and hearts?

Pastor Matt has share research indicating 100,000 people in our area are not connected to a church.

- Do you believe the actions of the church today can have the impact that generosity to the poor had on Julian nearly two thousand years ago?
- Do you think most people in our area hold the church in contempt?
 - What do you believe their attitude to be?
- How does meeting the physical needs of people who do not know Christ as Savior help us build a bridge to connect to faith in Jesus?
 - What will your Life Group do?
 - What will you family do?
 - What will you do?

