

Sermon Discussion Questions

People Before Projects

Nehemiah 5

August 6, 2017

1. Jeremy went to Germany with Jill this summer. Did you have any great trips this summer?
2. Our mission is “To invite people into a relationship with Jesus and together become devote followers of Him.” We desire to get people on the growth pathway (connect, serve, grow, go) so that they align their lives with the whole truth of God’s word—to mature in their relationship with Him. How might not loving well hinder this mission?
3. Jeremy quoted 1 Peter 4:8 and described what “keep fervent” means. Do you remember how he illustrated it with racing or athletes? Read the context of that verse, 1 Peter 4:8-11, and pull out as many applications as you can on how to love fervently from those four verses.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:1-8 is the most extensive description of love. Read it together and discuss what it takes to increase this kind of love with each other (what we need to do, what we need to stop doing).
4. The last main point was “Let love be without hypocrisy.” That is a quote from Romans 12:9. Read Romans 12:9-13 slowly and unpack with each other what loving without hypocrisy is according to these verses.
 - Remember about removing specks and logs (Matthew 7:3-5)? True or False: “It seems like it is always easier to see the speck in another’s eye than to see the log in our own.” Explain why you think this statement is either true or false.
5. Nehemiah was angry when he heard of the injustice and the mistreatment that Jews were doing to their fellow Jews. What is the difference between being angry with others and being disappointed with others? When is anger wrong (Jesus was angry. The Apostle Paul tells us its okay to be angry, Ephesians 4:26)?
6. At the end we were directed to love each other well for the right reason—to answer to God (Nehemiah 5:19). Nehemiah 5:9 and 15 speak of having the “fear of God” in us. Read the scenario below. If you were Bruce how would you steer your friend and fellow believer away from this wrong kind of fear to a right kind of fear.
 - Brent was pacing in his dorm room. Bruce, his roommate, didn’t know what to do. Brent said, “I am afraid. Bruce. I’m afraid I will be banging on the gates of heaven crying, “Let me in! Let me in! Please let me in!” And God will say, “Away from Me, I never knew you. I know God is disgusted with me. I fail Him all the time.”
7. Give us a grade for how loving we are as a church (A, B, C, D, F) and explain why you give us that grade.
 - If its a good grade, how can we spread that love to those outside our walls?
 - If its a bad grade, how can we bump our grade up to be better?