

Church Matters

Week 8: 60th Anniversary

Happy 60th Anniversary Sherwood Oaks!

If you would, entertain me for a moment. Please stand if you've been a part of Sherwood Oaks Christian Church for more than:

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|------------|------------|----------------------------|
| • 50 years | • 10 years | • 1 month |
| • 40 years | • 5 years | • 3 weeks |
| • 30 years | • 1 year | • 2 weeks |
| • 20 years | • 6 months | • Today is your first day! |

If you're still seated right now, math is hard, so go ahead and stand up! I'm going to pray and then we'll dive in...(Pray)

60 years ago this month, Sherwood Oaks Christian Church got started. And, it made me wonder, what else happened in 1962? Turns out, it was a pretty big year!

- Height of the Cuban missile crisis.
- John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth.
- Jackie Robinson became the first African-American to be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame
- Spider-Man and the Incredible Hulk are introduced into the Marvel Universe.
- Not only do we share a birthday with Taco Bell, but the first Target and Wal-Mart also opened in 1962.
- The Beatles released their first song in the U.K.
- The Rolling Stones formed as a band and made their debut.
- The Jetsons premiered on ABC.
- West Side Story won Best Picture
- Tom Cruise, Paula Abdul, MC Hammer were born. Each of them STILL 2 Legit to Quit.
- Johnny Carson became the host of The Tonight Show.
- Walter Cronkite became the anchor of the CBS Evening News.
- Goldfish Crackers were introduced, saving parents of hungry toddlers everywhere! But not all the food introduced that year was good...
- In 1962, the first Hawaiian Pizza with ham and pineapple was also created...in Canada of all places.

Fun Facts:

- Stamps cost \$0.04
- Movie ticket: \$0.79
- New car: \$2,975
- Gallon of gas: \$0.31 (Inflation is still undefeated!)

A lot has changed over the last 60 years, but one thing hasn't...the Church STILL matters. And if the Lord chooses to tarry, it'll *still* matter 60 years from now and beyond. Lord willing, our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren...and all those who come behind us...will gather as Sherwood Oaks Christian Church in 2082 to celebrate the faithful legacy that was launched all the way back then and continued through us today.

And, I believe there will be a gathering on that day, as long as we continue to keep the main thing, the main thing. And, what is the main thing? Jesus was asked that same question in Matthew 22. If you have a Bible, or a Bible app you like to use, turn there with me. Matthew 22:34-40.

I read a book last week called Atomic Habits by James Clear. His main point is that **small, incremental, everyday routines (habits) compound over time into massive changes in our life.** That minor actions done regularly create this explosion that helps us break bad habits and start good ones. And, the secret to this is staying focused on the main thing. Just keep it simple. Don't overcomplicate it. I think that's what Jesus is getting at in our text.

Look at it with me. Matthew 22, starting in verse 34...(READ Matt. 22:34-36)

Now, we don't pick it up with our modern ears, but there's actually a lot of tension in these verses. The Sadducees and Pharisees were two religious groups that didn't get along with each other, and neither one of them really cared for Jesus very much either. Jesus had become quite popular among those these religious leaders had controlled for centuries and they didn't like it. And so, they'd ask questions of Jesus, not because they were curious and seeking answers, but because they wanted to cause a stir and create division.

And so, Jesus had just given the equivalent of a mic-drop answer to the Sadducees about marriage at the Resurrection. And, the Pharisees see this as their chance to kick them when their down, while also putting Jesus in a tough spot. And so they ask him, "which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

And, answering this question tactfully was easier said than done. Rabbis who studied and taught Scripture had identified 613 commands in the Law, and people would argue and debate about which of those 613 were the most important. The greatest. Not in terms of the best, but the ones that meant the most. The weightiest.

And so, this teacher of the Law, hoping to put Jesus in a tough spot, asks him, "Jesus, what's the main thing?" What's most important to keeping and walking in our faith? Jesus answers in verse 37...(READ Matt. 22:37-40)

In other words, everything comes down to this...**Love God and Love People.** That's the main thing. That's what's most important to keeping and walking in our faith. Love God and Love People. Everything else falls into place when you do these two things in big and small ways.

And, like Atomic Habits, those small, incremental, everyday ways we love God and love others compound over time into massive changes *not only* in our life, but in the lives of others, too. And, in a way, I think that's the story of Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. Small acts of loving God and loving others have compounded over time into huge Kingdom impact in our community and around the world.

That's who we've been as a church for the last 60 years, it's who we still are today, and it's who we will continue to be long into the future. We are a church filled with people who love God and love others. And that love is expressed in the way we live out God's desire and design for His Church. In the way we uphold our unity and keep Christ central to all we do.

Our love for God and others is expressed in the way we gather for worship, connect in groups, serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. The way we partner together on mission. All the things we've talked about over the last 7 weeks of this series, it's all about why the Church matters and how it helps us live out the Great Commandment, keep the main thing the main thing...Love God and Love People.

That mission will always be central to Sherwood Oaks. We want to be a church that helps people love God and love others. We want to be a church that helps people connect to God and find their people to connect with. That message will always be the same, even as the way we communicate that message changes. We don't do it the way we did 60 years ago, and 60 years from now, they won't do it like we do today.

And, I think a really easy example of that is with our logo and website. Logos and websites are tools to help companies and organizations and churches communicate who they are and what they do and, at Sherwood Oaks, we've had a handful over the years...(show Previous Logos Image)

The goal for each of these was to express who we are and what we do. And that message has been communicated on several versions of our website...(scroll through Home Screen Shots) It's like taking a trip down memory lane. The days of Napster and Homestar Runner!

As we celebrate our 60th anniversary today, we're putting a new look on the same mission of helping people love God and love others. Connect with God and connect with others. We're introducing a new logo that captures who we are and what we do, and it's this...(show New Logo)

When I look at this logo, there are a few things that stick out to me. First, I see the S in the middle, but when I kinda pull back and look at the larger image, I also see an O that goes around it and two Cs that make up the S. SOCC. Clever, right?

But, more importantly, and why I love this mark so much and think it speaks to who we are as a church, I see two links coming together. A connection is being made. And that's what we do

here. Love happens in the context of relationships, so we want to help people connect in relationship with God and connect in relationship with others.

Everything changes when you follow Jesus and find your people. We want to help you connect with God, with others, and with the Church. We want to connect with our community in rich and meaningful ways. We want to connect with our global missions partners and the good work they're doing around the world.

This desire to love God and love others, to connect with God and others, has been baked into the DNA of Sherwood Oaks for the last 60 years, and will continue for the next 60 and beyond. This new logo helps us capture and communicate that.

And, with this new logo comes a brand new website, built from the ground up. Our current website platform predates things like iPhones and mobile browsers. And, if you've been on it lately, it shows. Our Communications Director, Jim Clark, and done an incredible job over the last year cleaning it up, but as the saying goes, it's been like putting lipstick on a pig.

So, back in the summer, Jim and a team started building a brand new website (**scroll through screen shots of new website**) that we hope will be easier to navigate and find the things you're looking for. And, since 2/3rds of our website traffic is from mobile devices, the new site is being built with a mobile first mindset, even though it'll still look great on whatever browser you use.

The new website will go live sometime this week, but today, you can pick up a sticker of the new logo out in the lobby. I put one on my car Thursday afternoon before the official embargo lifted. Sorry, Jim! But feel free to pick 1 or 2 up on your way out today and put one on your car, water bottle, notebook. Wherever! And let it serve as a reminder for why Sherwood Oaks exists, why the Church still matters, and why YOU still matter to the church. We want to help every generation love God, love people, and help others do the same.

As we celebrate 60 years of God's incredible work and faithfulness to Sherwood Oaks, may we continue to stay humble and stay hungry. May we stay humble, knowing that anything good that has happened in or through this body of believers has been by the grace of God alone. And may we stay hungry, knowing there are more people to reach with the good news of Jesus. More people to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus, helping them know, love, and follow Him with us.

The truth is, we want to help you connect with God and connect with others, but we know the mission field outside of these doors is huge. And, as the Church, we've been sent out by Jesus to be His ambassadors who are **Eager, Present, Empathetic, and Thoughtful** in the way we live and love and serve those in Bloomington, Bedford, and beyond.

And so, as we wrap up today...a day of celebration. A day of looking back and looking ahead, we want to remember that the God who loves us also loves those in our life who are living far from Him. He desires to set them free from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits. He desires to give them

a new life and a fresh start through Jesus. And, the best part is, He desires to use YOU to help them connect with Him.

As we close out this morning, we have four boards placed around the Worship Center. During the response time this morning, we invite you to go to one of the boards and write the name of someone you're praying for to connect with Jesus and find their people at Sherwood Oaks. We have sharpies on tables next to each board, as well as some Christmas invite cards. Take one of those cards and prayerfully consider giving it to the person whose name you write down.

In his Christmas account, the apostle John writes these words in John 1:14, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

Jesus came to connect with us and make a way for us connect with God. Through his death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus showed us what it truly means to love God and love others. May we continue to walk in that love and share that love with others.