

BECOMING & BEING MORE LIKE GOD'S FAMILY JUNE 1, 2021

THE OPENING:

- WHEN YOU THINK OF THE CHURCH AND ITS FUTURE, WHAT WORDS HELP SHAPE THE IMAGE OR DREAM IN YOUR MIND & HEART OF GOD'S PEOPLE?
- AS A SECONDARY QUESTION, WHAT MIGHT BE THE EXISTING BARRIERS TO SEEING THIS GREATER VISION OR DREAM OF YOURS ACCOMPLISHED?

- IN TONIGHT'S MESSAGE, I WANT TO CONSIDER THE DIFFERENT WAYS THAT YOU AND I CAN BECOME MORE UNITED AS GOD'S PEOPLE SO THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW IS ABLE TO CARRY THE GOSPEL TORCH EVEN FARTHER.

THE MAIN POINTS:

- THE CHURCH THAT WE HAVE TODAY, ALL AROUND THE WORLD, IS DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN - WHO KNEW THE JOY OF LIVING & WORKING TOGETHER AS ONE, FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF ALL.
- IF YOU ARE PART OF THE CHURCH TODAY, WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT YOU WANT OTHERS TO SEE, EXPERIENCE, AND RESPOND TO TOMORROW?
- IF YOU ARE NOT YET A PART OF THE CHURCH, ALSO KNOWN AS GOD'S FAMILY, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT GOD IS WILLING TO HEAR FROM YOU TODAY AND HE'S ALSO READY TO RESPOND TO YOU SO THAT YOU BEGIN TO KNOW HE WANTS YOU & NEEDS YOU TO TAKE YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE WITHIN HIS FAMILY.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- THE PROBLEMS OF TOMORROW WON'T BE RE-SOLVED ALONE, AND IF WE WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF HONORING GOD, THEN WE MUST BEGIN TO SEE, UNDERSTAND, AND RESPOND TO THE DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES WE ARE GIVEN TO JOIN & UNITE WITH GOD'S PEOPLE.
- FOR IF WE BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS THEN WE ARE EACH CREATED FOR A PURPOSE, CALLED TO PURSUE IT, AND COMMISSIONED TO LIVE IT AS ONE. AND WHEN WE DO THIS TOGETHER THE CHURCH & OUR FAMILY IS BETTER.

THE TEXT:

- **EPHESIANS 4:11-12** 'NOW THESE ARE THE GIFTS CHRIST GAVE TO THE CHURCH: THE APOSTLES, THE PROPHETS, THE EVANGELISTS, AND THE PASTORS AND TEACHERS. 12. THEIR (OUR) RESPONSIBILITY IS TO EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE TO DO HIS WORK AND BUILD UP THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST.
- **WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING UP THE CHURCH – GOD'S FAMILY AND WE DO THIS BY BECOMING AND BEING THE CHURCH UNITED.**
- **MATTHEW 12:50** JESUS SAYS HERE, "ANYONE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN IS MY BROTHER AND SISTER AND MOTHER!"
- **ACTS 1:14-26**
- (14) THEY ALL MET TOGETHER & WERE CONSTANTLY UNITED IN PRAYER...
- (17) JUDAS WAS ONE OF US AND SHARED IN THE MINISTRY WITH US.
- (20) ... IT ALSO SAYS, 'LET SOMEONE ELSE TAKE HIS POSITION.'
- (22) ... WHOEVER IS CHOSEN WILL JOIN US AS A WITNESS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION.'
- **GOD'S CHURCH IS TO JOIN TOGETHER** – WITH GOD AND WITH HIS PEOPLE WITH ONE PURPOSE: COMING TOGETHER TO GROW AND UNITE IN OUR LOVE FOR GOD AND THEN GOING OUT TOGETHER TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
- I KNOW GOD TODAY BECAUSE I AM IN A NEVER-ENDING/ LIFE-GIVING COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND HIS CHURCH.
- **JOHN 13:35** JESUS SAYS HERE, "YOUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER WILL PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES."

HOW THIS APPLIES TO US TODAY:

- **Q:** IF YOU BELONG TO GOD'S FAMILY AND YOU ARE PART OF THE CHURCH TODAY – THEN WHAT MIGHT YOU CONTRIBUTE ON AN ON-GOING BASIS TODAY THAT WILL HELP FURTHER THE GOSPEL & WILL INCREASE THE ODDS OF HONORING GOD AND HELPING OTHERS TO EXPERIENCE, BECOME, AND TO BE PART OF GOD'S ETERNAL FAMILY, HIS CHURCH, TOMORROW?

THE NEXT STEPS:

- **STEP 1:** IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY AND YOU WANT TO BE – REACH OUT TO US – LET'S CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER AND LET'S PURSUE GOD TOGETHER.
- **ACTS 2:38** PETER REPLIED, "EACH OF YOU MUST REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND TURN TO GOD, AND BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS. THEN YOU WILL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- **STEP 2:** IF YOU ARE PART OF THE CHURCH AND YOU HAVE NOT YET FOUND YOUR PURPOSE, THEN I ALSO WANT TO INVITE YOU TO CONNECT WITH US – THIS WILL REQUIRE SOME COMMITMENT FROM EACH ONE OF US AS WE WANT TO MAKE OURSELVES MORE AVAILABLE TO YOU, AND TO GOD.
- **STEP 3:** IF YOU WANT TO JOIN US IN A DEEPER LOOK AT HOW WE CAN BE THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW THEN I INVITE YOU TO JOIN WITH US THIS COMING SUNDAY AS WE LOOK TO GOD TOGETHER AND WE LISTEN TO OTHERS GIVE THEIR VOICE TO THE DIFFERENT WAYS WE CAN UNITE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF HIS PEOPLE.
- **TO START:** BEGIN TO ANSWER THE FIRST 2 QUESTIONS FROM TONIGHT'S OPENING:
- WHEN YOU THINK OF THE CHURCH AND ITS FUTURE, WHAT WORDS HELP SHAPE THE IMAGE OR DREAM IN YOUR MIND & HEART OF GOD'S PEOPLE?
- AS A SECONDARY QUESTION, WHAT MIGHT BE THE EXISTING BARRIERS TO SEEING THIS GREATER VISION OR DREAM OF YOURS ACCOMPLISHED?

THE CLOSING:

- 'HELPING ONE PERSON MIGHT NOT CHANGE THE WHOLE WORLD, BUT IT COULD CHANGE THE WORLD FOR ONE PERSON.'
- 'IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE, AND BECOME MORE, **YOU ARE A LEADER.**' - JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Q: WHERE WILL YOU BEGIN TO MAKE A GREATER DIFFERENCE?

- FOR THE CHURCH TO BE EFFECTIVE IT MUST COMMIT TO BEING UNITED.