

Sunday Gathering

The Singles Paradox,
Galatians 2:20 - Bradley Bell

August 20, 2023

Antioch Family 2023

Call to Worship - Psalm 100:1-5

This morning we are continuing our Antioch Family series entitled "I Am Not My Own" and today we are giving attention to an important and easily overlooked part of the church: singles.

Whether single or not, in our culture we see the fierce fight for independence raised up on a pedestal; and if we're honest, we can often see it in our own hearts. All it takes is a moment's inconvenience to grumble to ourselves, "No one tells me what to do!"

Let's take a moment to recognize and refocus on the Lord, the One to whom we belong, and give praise to him. Read the underlined portions with me, from Psalm 100.

- 1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:1-5

Lord, you tell us what to do. And we are so glad!

God is Good

Confession - 2 Corinthians 5:16-17, 21

Church, our world's battle for independence may look like outright rebellion against God, but if we pause we can see that even for those of us in Christ, we can be tempted to want to do things our own way too. What do I mean by that? Do you feel the pressure to be a "super Christian" or even just a "good Christian"? Do you tend to think, "Next time I won't do this or say that—I'll do better"?

When we tell ourselves to straighten up and do better, what we're really saying is, "I can be good all on my own. I can be presentable to God and do it my own way." And that forgets God's gift of grace!

Brothers and sisters, let's take a moment to confess to the Lord where we have relied on our own strength to do better.

Now hear the good news of what Christ has done to make us not just better, but completely acceptable to God:

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:16-17, 21

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

All I Have Is Christ

Sermon - Galatians 2:20

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Oh The Deep Deep Love

Sovereign Over Us

Benediction - Galatians 2:20

You may be seated. Thank you for joining us in today's gathering! We hope that you have experienced the welcome of Jesus.

Family Groups - We invite you to visit one of our Family Groups, which meet in homes throughout the week. We describe them as "intentional environments to be transformed by the gospel through relationships. If you would like to join one of them, there is info in the hallway, or talk with one of us, and we'll make a direct connection for you.

Giving & Visitors - Also, now is our time for giving—ushers, please come forward. If you are a visitor with us this morning, please grab a visitor card from the basket so we can get to know you more. You can give it to someone with a lanyard or leave it in your seat.

Antioch members, remember that giving is part of how we participate in God's mission. If you prefer to give digitally, visit our website or find us on GivApp.

Announcements

For everyone, here are a few ways to take the following steps:

- 1) Food Pantry was yesterday and not only did we serve 62 families (representing 225 individuals), we also had 37 people express interest in a Spanish-speaking worship gathering. In light of what God is doing, on Sunday, September 17th we will be having a missions Sunday with guest speaker Pedro Oberon, a Cuban minister who is helping with food pantry.
- 2) Next week's Antioch Academy class is "How to Prepare Your Child for Adolescence". Parents, we hope you'll be able to join us at 9 AM in the training room.
- 3) Our Fall soccer clinics kick off two weeks from now on Saturday, September 2nd. More info to come next week.
- 4) Young Disciples is having a fun Fall celebration on Saturday, October 14 at the Tennant's house from 5pm to 8pm. Open to every child in Young Disciples, there will be enough chaperones for all the kids but parents and siblings are welcomed and encouraged to stay as well. We will have a very manageable fire for roasting hot dogs and making s'mores. Chips, drinks, and fruit will be available as well (all food is provided). Come hang out and have fun!

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and end with a benediction, which is simply a reminder that we are blessed to be a blessing.

Church, since you have been crucified with Christ, and Christ lives in you, may you live joyfully by faith in every stage of life; declaring the good news of the Son of God who loves you and gave himself for you; and leveraging your singleness, marriage, youth, or maturity for the glory of God in our community and among the nations. Based on Galatians 2:20

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

You are sent.
