

Worship Discussion and Reflection Questions

Sermon: Happily Ever After - Starting Now!

Scripture: Galatians 2:20; 17:20-26; Rev. 21:22

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Rev. 21:22

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

John 17:20-26

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Questions:

1. have you thought of the gospel as "multi-faceted" before this series? Which aspects of the gospel are new or challenging to you? (adopted as part of God's family, sins forgiven, part of God's kingdom, that it is a gift we receive, not something we can earn, and that we are called to live our life in God's love today)
2. Sometimes people perceive a tension between the fact that we receive the gospel by grace (it is a free gift!) and that it calls us into a new (and different) life-- one that changes how we live. What do you think? Is there conflict there? Is it a bait and switch? Or is it like a child being grateful to her parents and acting accordingly?
3. Have you ever experienced God's healing love? What was it like? Have you ever told anyone about that experience?
4. Do you believe God is calling you to into his life of love right now? Is the gospel a promise for now or only for someday?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for the gospel. Thank you for good news that stretches beyond me and my salvation and reaches to the whole cosmos. Thank you for adopting me into your family and including me in your rescue mission. Use me Lord. Use my time, talents, skills and attention to share your love with others, and help me to rest in your love all the days of my life.

In the strong name of Jesus I ask it, Amen!