

Message Notes EMPHASIS: MISSION TOPIC: BECOME | PRESENCE

Main Idea:

If part of our mission is to Become The Good News and one of our cultural pillars is Presence... how do we understand them in the context of application?

John 15: 1-11

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Questions That Need Answers:

1. What does it mean to Become The Good News?
 2. How do we live out of the Culture of Presence?
 3. How do they play together?
-

INTRO

- As Brian shared last week, our Mission is to Become The Good News, Believe The Good News, Share The Good News, and its attached and parallels what we call our cultural pillars. Which are Identity, Presence, and Mission.

all of these we believe when we agree upon living by them as a church, will create a truly spiritually formed family.

- Its why its important we not just review them again now, but often. Vision... it matters, "vision creates the ability to make steps with action and purpose."

- So tonight I want us to look at Becoming The Good News and the cultural Pillar of Presence.

- It is a reality that, what we believe, we are destined to become, and before we can get to Sharing The Good News, we have to be able to embody at least a portion of it.

- So tonight, we need to be able to examine a few things to see clearly why this plays such a vital role...
-

1. The scandalous claim of God with us

Matthew 1: 18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

*23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"
(which means, God with us).*

- This idea from a place of theology is called "Theosis"

Theosis - is the transformative process of a human being becoming more like God through participation in the divine life.

We see this claim in scripture, first by Jesus in John 17

John 17: 20-23

20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 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. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 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.

2 Peter 1: 3-4

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

“The Word of God, our Lord Jesus Christ... became what we are, that He might bring us to be even what He is Himself.”

- Irenaeus of Lyons

2. Change outside of presence is impossible

- These scriptures, theosis speak not only of dwelling with... but becoming like God

2 Peter 1: 3-4

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

1 John 3: 1-2

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and

what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

- We are to be as Peter would say, partakers of the divine nature of God, and our ultimate end is that we will be simply, just like Jesus.

“The real problem of the Christian life comes where people do not usually look for it. It comes the very moment you wake up each morning... when all your wishes and hopes rush at you like wild animals.”

— Without surrendering to God’s presence, life becomes chaos under our own control. - C.S. Lewis

3. We have become too comfortable without presence

- In the long line of things, that we have been taken for granted in our faith... the presence might be the greatest of all.

- I say this not only for you but for even myself... how often are we in our daily life taking for granted the reality that we are living with and in the presence of the living God.

Luke 8: 43-46

43 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. 44 She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. 45 And Jesus said, “Who was it that touched me?” When all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!”

Message Notes EMPHASIS: MISSION TOPIC: BECOME | PRESENCE

46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me."

- Think about the chaos of the crowd, think about the people touching him, think about the noise and the screaming... through all that, Jesus... is still always in tune and aware of the presence and power of The Holy Spirit.
- What does that mean for us how do we understand this type of awareness

Galatians 5: 22-26

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

- Now, as I stated three and two weeks ago, what is the sign of success for the disciple of Jesus? - actively living out and seeing The Fruit of The Spirit in your life.
- Paul gives us The Fruit of The Spirit... then he gives a look into the method, keeping in step with the spirit.
- We are called to live a life in lock step with the spirit, with a internal awareness of him and his voice. It sounds difficult, but how often do you talk to yourself in your own head?

FINAL THOUGHT

- We can't take for granted the reality that the spirit is looking for a union with us, in which we are free to hear his voice all throughout our existence.

• **This is life in the vine...**

John 15: 1-11

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Abiding in the one, in which we are given the freedom to abide in.
