

Model

6: "The Christian: A relationship that satisfies"

The Message

Series

- God's plan is that through his sons and daughters, he would bring his peace and reconciliation to the world
 - the Church is the hope of the world
- That often is not the reality of Christians or the church
- It is a problem because Satan destroys John 10:10
 - Satan wants to destroy our world.
- We want to be like the church of Acts 2:43-48
 - This inspires us
- the reason we do not live this out is because we have been following the wrong model
 - in the church, as Christians, as men and women
 - If you build with the wrong plans, you won't build what you wanted
- We will look at God's model for the church, man, woman, and Christian

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Reduction

We've reduced the definition to something far less than what is

Saved, good, and go to church

We think that being a Christian means to be saved, well-behaved, and go to church

We've reduced it

this is a reduction, like saying that a car is metal and Rubber
or eating is putting carbohydrates, proteins and fat in your body

A relationship

Being a Christian means being in a relationship with God: an intimate, fully satisfying and missionary

Being a christian means being in an intimate, all-satisfying, and missional relationship with God

By reducing it, we lose the essence of what it is

3 Questions

- What kind of relationship
- What do we get in this relationship
- What does this relationship produce in us

What do we get?

In our relationship with God

We want to be happy

Our primary desire

We seek happiness, security, purpose

- Happiness: pleasure, comfort, joy
- Security: Power, control, certainty
- Purpose: That you are important, that you are worth something, that your life has meaning

We look for them in things, people and activities

Happiness

- If you had that certain person, this romantic relationship or friendship, you would be happy
- When you play these games
- When I can relax and watch TV
- When I eat
- When I drink
- When I buy stuff

Security

- when there is money in the bank
- when I have a man
- When my job is safe
- when I have it all figured out
- When I workout

Purpose

- When my dad or mom is happy with me
- when I have success at work
- When you get good grades in school
- when I provide for my family
- when I do something for God

Yours

- Who or what makes you or would make you happy?
- Who or what makes you or would make you feel safe?

- Who or what makes you or would make you feel you are worth something, you're important?

What do we get from God?

to give us what really makes us happy, safe, and have meaning/purpose

We go to God, and we think he will help us get what we really want

Compare our prayers to the Lord's Prayer

- Give me, heal me, help me, protect me, make everything work out
- You're glorious, do what you want, bring your kingdom, give us what we need, forgive us, guide us

This is the point of the book of Hosea

Big Idea: Being a Christian is to have an all-satisfying relationship with God

is what we get from God

Happy in God

God wants us to seek our happiness in him

WE think that God can give us what we really want

in reality, what he offers us is himself

God alone can make us really happy

That is why in salvation, we get God

1 Peter 3:18

Paul: Happy in Christ

Christ is more important, valuable to him that everything would lose in his death

Philippians 1:19-23

V19: Logically it could be what he most wanted

V20: He wanted something more than freedom. What? Honor Christ. Why? Christ was very important to him.

V21: Christ was more important.

V22: Life was just important for him to help others to know Jesus. In other words, Jesus was most important to him, what he valued most.

V23: Losing everything and be with Christ, were gain to him. Why? Because he valued Christ more than everything.

He satisfies more, not less

We think in terms of what we have to give up in order to become a Christian, that we will have to suffer by not doing things that really make us happy

Psalms 16:1

Psalms 16:11

Psalms 17:15

This is not optional

Finding your happiness in God is not optional. It's part of what it means to be a Christian.

Jeremiah 2:11-13

If you are a Christian, and you don't see nor find your joy, satisfaction, security and purpose in Christ, you should worry.

Application: Find your happiness in God

Entering the relationship

deciding to enter the relationship with it (Acts 2:38)

You will get what truly satisfies you

Change how you see problems

God brings problems, he removes things from our lives

So that we look to him

Our temptation is to replace the idol we lost

instead of replacing it, God wants us to learn to be satisfied in him

Look for happiness in God

For God's son/daughter:

When you want to be happy, relax, etc: learn to seek and find it by reading the Bible and talk with God.

When you are stressed, and need to feel safe: learn to find it by meditating on how great is your Father and His promises to take care of you.

When you want to feel that your life is worth something: Learn how to find your identity and value in the approval that your Father has for you. You are accepted, perfect, beloved, valuable in his eyes, through Jesus.

And you will be more happy, feel more secure, and have a greater sense of purpose than ever before.

What do you need to do?

To find your happiness in God

What will you do?

Communion: On the cross, Jesus opened the way to God

so we could find our happiness in him