

Sharing Life, Treasuring Jesus

Mission and Vision Sunday 2022

Introduction

As we have mentioned several times over the last few weeks, our mission is to **Invite All to Build Hope-Filled Homes in Jesus**. This is what we believe God has given us to do at this time in our church's history. We have identified four motives that fuel this mission of inviting all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus: 1) Giving Hope, 2) Building Homes, 3) Sharing Life, and 4) Treasuring Jesus. Last week, we considered the first two motives: Giving Hope and Building Homes. This morning, we will consider the last two motives: **Sharing Life** and **Treasuring Jesus**.

Exposition

Why are we committed to this mission of inviting all to build hope-filled homes in Jesus?

I. To Share Life

This motive of “sharing life” is rooted in **Acts 2:42**, which tells the story of the early church. According to Luke, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” As the verse illustrates, the people of God are called to share life with one another. This is what the verse means when it speaks of “fellowship” and “the breaking of bread.”

Fellowship implies commonality and unity but does not require uniformity. While we may have minor differences in our preferences (like sports, styles, and hobbies), Christians have the major thing in common. These are the things that matter! We share a common confession of faith in Christ. We share a common commitment to the great commandment and the great commission. And we share a common commitment to one another in the church of Jesus Christ. This reality drives us to share life with one another, which entails spending time with each other and eating with each other.

Yet, beyond our commonality, we, as the church, are called to fellowship because Jesus was committed to fellowshiping. If you want an interesting study, go through the gospel of Luke, and count all the times that you find Jesus hanging out and eating with people. He did this so often that the Pharisees accused him of being a glutton. (Luke 7:34)

I know this will probably get a hearty amen from some of you, but it needs to be said, even if it's obvious – as the church, we need to spend more time eating together and hanging out together. We need to have more people in our homes for coffee and dessert. We need to laugh together. We need to cry together. We need to be friends! And that is simply not going to happen in this large group setting, which is one of the reasons we have small groups that meet at different times and different places throughout the week to facilitate this fellowship, this sharing of life with one another.

Sharing life is an important aspect of what it means to follow Jesus and be a part of His body. This is one of the reasons that want to encourage you to become a partner with us at Copperfield Church through membership. Furthermore, we want to see you get plugged into a small group where you can grow and serve others.

But you may be thinking, why do we need to share life with one another? Are there any passages other than Acts 2:42? I'm glad you asked...

1) Sharing Life with One Another Deepens our Faith

One of my favorite verses in all of Scripture points out the benefit of sharing life with one another by deepening our faith. In **Philemon 6**, the apostle Paul writes, "I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ." The word in this verse that is translated as "partnership" is the same word that is often translated as "fellowship" or "sharing." According to Paul, when we partner with, share in, and fellowship in the faith with other believers, our understanding of "every good thing we share for the sake of Christ" is deepened.

You and I will simply not grow as deep as we could if we isolate ourselves from other believers. If you want to grow, you need others in your life. Other passages in the New Testament teach this as well (Philippians 1:9-11, Ephesians 1:15, 16-19, Colossians 1:9-12).

2) Sharing Life with One Another Magnifies the Work of Christ

Now, one of the risks of sharing life with one another is that relationships can be messy. It is possible to be hurt by the sins of others. It can be hard sometimes to get along with people who are different from us. Yet, it is exactly at this point that our relationships serve a greater purpose than we realize. Our relationships serve to magnify the work of Christ. I love how this can be seen in **1 Corinthians 10:16-17**, which says, "¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf."

When believers in the first century partook of the Lord's Supper together, they were declaring the power of the work of Christ to tear down the dividing walls of hostility and bring us near to God. They were remembering and proclaiming that their primary identity was one that they possessed in Christ. When Christians share life with one another, they do so as those who have been redeemed by Christ. So, the risk of relationships in the context of the body of Christ is mitigated by the fact that we have the resources in Christ to forgive and reconcile with one another when things get messy. Will there be relational drama at times? Of course. We are sinners. But the great news that enables us to work through such difficult times is that we sinners have a great Savior. And when we can share life with one another, loving and forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven us, then Christ will be magnified to the onlooking world.

3) Sharing Life with One Another Meets Physical and Spiritual Needs in the Body

When believers come together to share life with one another, God uses them to meet needs in the body. Two passages illustrate this point in **2 Corinthians 8:1-5** and **2 Corinthians 9:12-15**. Listen to the testimony of that the apostle Paul delivers regarding the cooperative spirit and partnership that was present in the Macedonian church:

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 – And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³ For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, ⁴ they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. ⁵ And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

Having drawn upon the example of the Macedonia churches, Paul now calls upon and commends the Corinthian church for their partnership and service.

2 Corinthians 9:12-15 – ¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Did you notice the result? “Others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.” That is awesome! Isn't that what we long to see and hear people thinking and saying about Copperfield Church in our community? Wouldn't be amazing one day to hear that people are praising God as a result of your obedience, your partnership with other believers?

Isn't this what partly motivates us for the work of missions? That we partner with one another, committing to sharing our lives together, using the resources and gifts that God has blessed us with so that others would praise the name of the living God! We are not interested in Copperfield Church being praised, but rather, that the name of God would be praised as a result of our obedience as the people of God, and one of the key aspects of that obedience in relationship to our confession of the gospel of Christ is that we would share our lives with one another as the church of Jesus Christ.

II. To Treasure Jesus

Now, all of this leads us to the final motive: Treasuring Jesus. This idea of treasuring comes from Jesus' teaching in the gospels. Two passages highlight the significance of treasuring Jesus and His kingdom above all: Matthew 13:44 and Matthew 13:45-46. We can read them together

Matthew 13:44-46 - “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

The one who has found the invaluable, priceless treasure of Jesus goes and gives everything necessary in order to follow him and know Him more. But, what will it look like as we grow to treasure Jesus together?

1) Less Worry, More Worship

Matthew 6:25-34 - ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

When we know what and who we have in Jesus, the things of this earth grow dim. They lose their allure. We recognize that we can worry less and worship more because our God will supply everything we need exactly when we need it for His glory and our good.

2) Greater Sacrifice, Greater Generosity, Greater Hope

Matthew 6:19-21 – ¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Hebrews 11:26 - He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

When we treasure Jesus, not only are we freed up from worry to worship Him, we will find ourselves willing to sacrifice more, be more generous, and have greater hope. Treasuring Jesus reorients our lives and the life of Copperfield Church around the main thing, bring God the glory that He is due!

Conclusion

When people hear about treasuring Jesus, there are typically two responses

Matthew 19:16-22

¹⁶ Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

¹⁷ “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”

¹⁸ “Which ones?” he inquired.

Jesus replied, “ ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹ honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”

²⁰ “All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

²¹ Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

²⁷ Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Philippians 3:7-21

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Will you walk away, sad, this morning, because you are still treasuring the things of this world? Or will you count all of those things as loss for the surpassing joy of knowing Jesus?

We want your home to be filled with the hope that only Jesus can bring. Will you come to Him this morning?