

Roots: Becoming Who We Are

Sermon Notes and Takehome

July 11th, 2010

Matthew 16:13-20; 18:15-20

Observations about the church:

7. As you look at the values of the church, do any of them surprise you? Which would you say is most important?

8. The Church is the gathering of individuals, so each individual must carry the “DNA” of the church (embody the values of the Church). If this is the case, which of the values is easiest for you?
 - being Christ-centered.
 - actively protecting unity.
 - being “missional.”

9. Which of the values is the most difficult for you?

10. What step(s) will you take to improve in that area?

- Our foundation is _____. (vs. 18)

- The church is on _____, (In a _____ way.) (vs. 18)

- We have eternal _____ and _____. (vs. 19)

The Values of the Church:

1. The church must be “Christ-centered.” (1 Cor 3:10-11)

2. The church must ruthlessly protect its unity. (Eph 4:1-6)

- An environment of grace...
- Where people are honest...
- Motivated by love.

3. The church IS mission. (Matt 28:18-20)

- Spiritual growth turns us outward.
- We travel light. (leave the baggage behind.)
- We must be culturally relevant. (1 Cor 9:19-23)
- Relationships are the highest value.

Application and Further Study:

Catholics believe that in Matthew 16:18 Jesus was proclaiming Peter as the foundation of the church. (Thus, the Pope, as Peter’s direct successor is the foundation of the church). Protestants, while believing Peter played an important role in the church, believe that it’s Peter’s confession “Jesus is the Christ” that is the foundation of the church.

1. How would you respond to the Catholic’s belief? Why should we believe that it’s the confession “Jesus is the Christ” that’s the foundation of the church?
2. Why is it essential that Christ is at the very center of the Church? What does it mean that Christ is the center? How is this worked out practically in the church?

Read Matthew 18:15-20. In this passage, Jesus again tells his followers that whatever they bind or loose on earth will be done in heaven, which connects it to Matthew 16—important principles for the church.

3. Why do you think Jesus addresses interpersonal conflict at the same time He establishes the church?
4. What are His specific instructions? What are the steps and why is each significant?
5. Protecting the unity of the church is of utmost importance. Are there any relationships within the church where you need to seek reconciliation?