

“SHUCKING US DOWN TO THE COB I”

(Vision & Mission)
MCC Distinctives

I. Mark 12:29-31 & Matthew 28:18-20

A. I want to spend time in the coming weeks talking about us...

- 1) I've talked often how we are a part of the greater Body of Christ...
- 2) Anyone who knows me knows I love the church. (Don't mess with Jesus' girl!)
- 3) Lots of opportunities to minister to the Greater Body of Christ this year--with hopes that more of you will be privileged to do the same...
- 4) But I believe it's time to talk about some of our distinctives--so you have a clear understanding of who we are and what we believe we are called to do...

B. Two weeks ago I gave an illustration about strawberry shortcake...

- 1) Something that surpasses programs, performances, and preaching...
- 2) Genuine vertical & horizontal love--rooted in Jesus--based in real relationships...
- 3) I shared then there are a thousand ways to wash one another's feet...

C. Let's read Mark 12:29-31 and our Vision Statement...

- 1) We believe we're called to embody the Great Commandment...
- 2) Also: John 13:34-35...
- 3) For more on Love, see 1 Corinthians 13...

D. Let's read Matthew 28:18-20 and our Mission Statement...

- 1) It's the Great Commission not the Great Suggestion...
- 2) There are countless ways to be deliberate in this respect...
- 3) We want to be: a-what-you-see-is-what-you-get, genuine article, real deal people, under construction (with orange barrels) transformational-on-our-way-to glory-bunch of people, who love God, each other, who are sharers of the Gospel...
- 4) Chief scripture: 1 Peter 3:15-16...

E. Who among us is called & qualified to minister in these ways? Everyone...

- 1) Young, old, male, female, rich, poor, blue collar, white collar, red, yellow, black, or white, educated, handicapped, Fairfield Beach, WTP, Thurston, Millersport, Buckeye Lake, etc.
- 2) We're a room full of pitchers--giving and receiving from one another...
- 3) 1 Peter 2:9-10...

F. “Being” without the “Doing” or “Doing” without the “Being” both fall short.

- 1) The Acts 2:42-47 Church was completely balanced: Be-ers & Doers...
- 2) You can have great programs, performances, and preaching but without Jesus and without love you ain't nothing...
- 3) You can have a big internalized love fest but will fail without being generous with sharing the Gospel.

G. For some the goal is: “large & in charge” for us: small, (yet growing) interconnected, & real...

- 1) Elephant vs mice... Dave Browning/Christ The King Church...
- 2) Can you embrace who we are? Can you see yourself a part?

H. Close with prayer...

Sermon Scriptures & Illustrations

Mark 12:29-31 (NIV)

29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Our Vision Statement:

"To be a growing family of believers characterized by a deep and genuine love for God and one another."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Our Mission Statement:

"To establish, restore, and increase relationships with our Lord Jesus Christ."

John 13:34-35 (NASB)

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. **35** By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for one another

1 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, **16** keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV)

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.