



Sermon Notes

Welcome to Sound City

VALUES 4-6 | RELATION TO OTHER CHRISTIANS

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How is God challenging you to grow in prioritizing relationship with him and with others?
- How can you be more intentional about letting yourself be known and loved/challenged with the gospel?
- How can you be more intentional about seeking others to know them, love them, and challenge them with the gospel?
- How can you be more intentional about getting equipped for the work of the ministry?
- How is God challenging you to become a better steward of the ministry he has purposed you for?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Listen to “How the Supremacy of Christ Creates Radical Christian Sacrifice” by John Piper. Together for the Gospel Conference, Louisville, KY. April 17, 2008.
 - <http://www.desiringgod.org/conference-messages/how-the-supremacy-of-christ-creates-radical-christian-sacrifice>
- Read “Redemption: Freed by Jesus from the Idols We Worship and the Wounds We Carry,” by Mike Wilkerson.

SERMON RECAP

Overview of the series

Series: “Welcome to Sound City Bible Church”

- Not “about us”
- About the biblical values we hold dear
- The values we hold, that which is most important to us, shapes how we live.

Where we’re at in the series:

#1 | Mission statement

- To glorify God by proclaiming Jesus, receiving grace, being disciples, and making disciples.

#2 - 4 | Values

- Relationship to God (1-3), **to other Christians (4-6)**, to the World (7-9)

#5 - 7 | Doctrine

#8 | Covenant

- What is a covenant and what does it mean to be ministers of a new covenant?

Set up for today | Relation to other christians

Galatians 6:10

...as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- Historically, we had a HUGE emphasis on the outreach of the gospel which is good. But we need to also have a big focus on how we care for those who are in our family.

VALUE #4 | PRIORITY OF RELATIONSHIP

Relationship established

1. God is a God of relationship

Genesis 1:1–2

*In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.*

John 1:1-2

*In the beginning was **the Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **He was in the beginning with God.***

- From the very beginning we see the Trinity living in eternal community.
- God wasn't lonely! He didn't create us because he needed us to fill a void in his life.

2. God created us for relationship

Genesis 1:26, 27

*Then God said, "**Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...** So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female he created them.***

Genesis 2:18

*Then the Lord God said, "**It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.**"*

- Created into relationship with God
- Created into relationship with fellow man

Relationship broken

1. Relationship with God broken

Genesis 3:1–6

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?...”

Genesis 3:7–8

*Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked...And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and **the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God** among the trees of the garden.*

- Sin severed relationship with God

2. Relationship with man broken

Genesis 3:9–13

*But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” **The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”** Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” **The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”***

- Sin severed relationship with one another
- Blame shifting, hurt, distrust

Relationship restored

1. God initiates & pursues

Genesis 3:9–10

*But **the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”** And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and **I was afraid**, because I was naked, and **I hid myself**.”*

- A common pattern: God pursues! We see it here and again and again throughout scripture.

2. God hints at his restoration plan

Genesis 3:14–19

*The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, **cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.**”*

- A promise of what’s to come
- God moved first in the great work of redeeming and restoring us!
- **The great loss was not the garden but the relationship with God!**

3. God provides a model of his restoration plan

- **Exodus story - is a microcosm - a small summary of the overall story of God's redemption plan for all of us**

Exodus 33:1-3

• CONTEXT:

- Called Moses up to the mountain to give him the 10 commandments, a way to set themselves apart from other people groups to show that they were God's people
- The people make a golden calf

*The Lord said to Moses, "Depart; go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...**Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.**"*

Exodus 33:15

*And he said to him, "**if your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.**"*

- Moses got it - it wasn't about the promise land - it was about the relationship with God!

4. God fulfills his restoration plan

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who **through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.***

5. Relationships restored with God & man

Romans 12:5

...we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18-19

For through him...you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...

- NOTICE: The gospel results in a restored relationship with both God AND MAN. You don't get one or the other.

- Contrast
 - Some Christians talk all about **personal relationship** with Jesus.
 - Others will focus much more on the **social aspects** - what it means to impact men through service etc.
 - The truth is - it's BOTH!

SUMMARY

- Do you see how God's priority of relationship is a primary theme that runs throughout scripture?
- God values relationship!!!
- He created us for relationship
- We broke that relationship
- God promised to restore relationship with him and with one another
- God gave a great model in Exodus for what his redemption plan is
- God fulfills his redemption plan through Jesus

VALUE #5 | PROGRESS NOT PERFECTION

God initiates & pursues sinners

- Adam & Eve were hiding
- Adam & Eve didn't even repent and God laid out a promise
- God initiated and pursued the Israelites when leading them out of Egypt
- God initiates and pursues us through Jesus

Romans 5:8

...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- There was NOTHING we could do to make things right with God.
- This is a MAJOR theme through scripture. God initiates and pursues us!

God is faithful even when we aren't

Ezekiel 20:5-8

*Thus says the Lord God: **On the day when I chose Israel, I swore to the offspring of the house of Jacob, making myself known to them in the land of Egypt...And I said to them, Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the Lord your God. But they rebelled against me and were not willing to listen to me. None of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt.***

- Consider the passover
 - Last of 10 plagues - showing God's greatness to Pharaoh and everyone in Egypt
 - Angel would go to a home, see idols, kill the first born son
 - Angel would go to the next home, see idols, but would see blood on the door post and then pass over
 - NOTE - The Israelites & Egyptians both had idols. They both were dishonoring God. The only difference was God's grace towards the Israelites and their obedience to put the blood on the door frame.
 - Blood of the lamb a foreshadowing of the blood of Jesus as sacrificial lamb who would die to cover our sins
 - Ezekiel also said that God said he would "end their lewdness and the whoring that began in the land of Egypt."

2 Timothy 2:13

...if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.

- God is faithful even when we are not! But **he does invite us to obey him - knowing that's where our greatest joy and fulfillment will be found.**

God calls us to change

Romans 6:1–4 (ESV)

*What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*****

- You are saved by grace, however...God then calls us to a life of obedience.

Romans 12:1

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

- NIV "in view of God's mercy"

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- **Contrast**...Christians fall into one of two equal errors
 - (1) God expects you to be holy and sinless so just hurry up and be holy
 - (2) Great! We were saved by grace, let's just celebrate we are one huge mess - and we just sit in it with no urgency to move. (over time this group tends to quit proclaiming the gospel at all)
 - The balance: ***We need to offer grace, but encourage one another towards change.***
 - **That's where our greatest joy and fulfillment will be found.**

God warns us

Hebrews 3:12–13

*Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But **exhort one another every day**, as long as it is called "today," **that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.***

- We are ALL called to be engaged in building up one another.
- We are warned that our own hearts can led astray if we're not engaged in ministry with one another
 - NOTE: Impacted by hearing his word
 - NOTE: Impacted by proclaiming his word

SUMMARY

- Do you see how important the theme of progress not perfection is throughout scripture?
- It's so easy to forget this.
- God initiates
- God pursues us
- God is faithful even when we aren't
- All of that - comes before he asks anything of us
- **So his charge to us isn't a list of weighty demands put upon us but an invitation to worship him through obedience because he knows that is where our greatest joy will be found!**

VALUE #6 | MEMBERS EQUIPPED FOR MINISTRY

All are called to ministry

2 Corinthians 5:17–20

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who **through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their*

*trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.** We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

As ambassadors we...

- **Prophet** would speak a word of truth to break through the hard hearted
 - Jesus - THE WORD. The way, the TRUTH, the life. His words, his truth confronts hard hearts.
- **Priest** would care for and restore the broken hearted
 - Jesus - the high priest, intercedes on our behalf. He restores the broken hearted.
- **King** would point people to Jesus and oversee/care for the kingdom
 - Jesus - the king, is preparing the kingdom for all his people!
- **As his ambassadors we...**
 - Prophets - Speak truth to confront the hard hearted and point them to Jesus
 - Priests - We care for the broken hearted and help point them to Jesus
 - Kings - We are also charged to think about how we help draw foreigners into the kingdom of God.

Get equipped for ministry

Ephesians 4:11–16

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, **to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, **when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.***

- We can NOT be good stewards of what God's doing here unless we're all engaged
- Discipleship training / CG's

The call to ministry is joyful

1. Jesus endured the cross with joy

Hebrews 12:1–2

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to **Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

2. Paul endured suffering with joy

2 Corinthians 7:4

*I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. **In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.***

3. We are invited to endure suffering with joy

Hebrews 13:12–15

*So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. **Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.***

SUMMARY

- Do you see how important it is that we have been entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation?
- This is the means through which we experience God!
- When we invite you to serve and get involved in community groups - we're inviting you into the places where God is at work so you can experience God.

“You are not the means by which we accomplish what we want to get done.

Ministry is the means by which God engages you.”

- We are given an opportunity to obey when we respond to his call on our life
- We are given a chance to abide with him as we entrust ourselves to him
- We are given a chance to experience him as he works through us to accomplish his purposes
- We want you to understand your call to ministry.
- We want you to be equipped for ministry.
- **We should take great joy!**