

Unity – Week 3 – Pastor Kurt Owens – 8-21-22

1. What was your thought about church and God when you were growing up?
2. How has your upbringing impacted your ideas about church and God?
3. Have any of your thoughts about church and God been wrong?

Luke 10:25-37 – On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”²⁷ He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

4. Why do you think Jesus asked the expert in the law, “How do you read it?” in response to his question about how to inherit eternal life?
5. How do our biases impact how we read the Bible?
6. What does loving God and loving your neighbors look like for you?
7. Why do you think that the expert in the law wanted to justify himself?
8. In what areas might you want to justify yourself?

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.³⁵ The next day he took out two denari^[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

9. Why do you think that a priest and a Levite might ignore the man and pass by on the other side of the road?
10. Why might you ignore someone in need of help?
11. What is significant about the Samaritan stopping to help the man?

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

12. What do we learn about who our neighbor is from this passage?
13. What is the difference between tolerating someone and loving them?
14. Why do you think that unity & love are so important to Jesus?
15. How has God’s love for you changed your love for others?
16. Who do you need to have mercy on this week?

Romans 10:9 - If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

17. How can you love and be united with other Christians who are different from you?
18. How can you help others who don’t know Jesus to become a part of the family of God?