



The Two Greats That Drive Our Church

MAIN THING

A Great Commitment To The Great Commission And The Greatest Commandment Makes A Great Church

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-31, Matthew 28:18-20, 1 John 5:2-4, 1 John 4:20-21, Acts 4:1-4, Acts 11:22-24

ICEBREAKER

Cats or Dogs?

OPENING THOUGHT

God has blessed us immensely as a church over the last fourteen years. As we move into maturity as a church, it is essential that we maintain our focus on what God put us here to do. Many times we as people start off very well- we are laser-focused in life with clear goals and a clear mission. However, as life happens and we experience success, we are distracted from what originally motivated us and we lose our focus and passion. The Bible is full of people who started off great and finished poorly- Noah, Moses, Samuel, King Saul, King David, King Solomon- the list goes on and on. In order for us to avoid being like them, we must never forget our mission and our purpose.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. Which is easier to do- to love God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, or to love your neighbor as yourself? Explain your answer. Which are you more consistent at doing?
3. One of the habits of highly effective people is "begin with the end in mind." Highly effective people visualize the end, then plot a course to get there. The Bible has this to say about Barnabas, "He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and because of him, many were won to the Lord." What needs to happen in your life so that can be said about you at your funeral?

LIFE APPLICATION

There is no doubt that our community has some PTSD from the last two years. People spent two years being suspicious of each other, isolated from each other, with some even fighting with friends and families. Stress and anxiety and depression skyrocketed. There is still some of that now. How can we as a church be an oasis in the midst of all that? How can we commit to loving our community and providing relief and respite to those still feeling the effects of the shutdowns?

CHALLENGE

We have the gospel here in America because one of Jesus' disciples (we don't know which one) shared the gospel with someone, who shared the gospel with someone, then generations later took the gospel to Europe and South America and Asia, and then another generations later brought the gospel to America, and since the founding of America that gospel has been passed down to us. We, at Catalyst Christian Church, are simply one link in a two-thousand year chain where Jesus Christ has been preached. The question is this- how are we continuing that chain? Will the chain be broken because of us? Or will we see ourselves as an essential part in the story of God, continuing the work of the original disciples to "go into all the world, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I've commanded you"?