



One Teaching

MAIN THING

In Essentials Unity, In Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Love

SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:42-47, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 14:6, Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 9:20-23, Acts 26:20, Ephesians 4:2-6

ICEBREAKER

If someone asked me to define “church” I would say

OPENING THOUGHT

One of the criticisms of church is that it is a social club. That may be true in some cases, but it is a very dangerous criticism. Relationships within the church are not only important- they are **CRUCIAL**. You may have come to Catalyst because of preaching or music or children’s or youth ministry, but you will only **STAY** at Catalyst (or any church) if you have friendships. Studies have shown that if people do not have friendships in the church they attend, they will leave the church in less than two years time. Therefore, if any discipleship or growth is to occur, there must be relationships. Friendships. So how does that happen in a church? Acts 2:42-47 shows us how.

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. The main thing was “in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things love.” What do you believe to be the essentials- the non-negotiables of the faith? What are some non-essential, insignificant things churches have allowed to destroy unity?
3. Jesus commanded us to “love our enemies.” That also applies within the church. Being “right” doctrinally doesn’t give us the license to be unloving or arrogant when speaking with people who disagree with us. How can our church continue to live out “in all things love” first within our own church and then expand that to the bigger Body of Christ?

LIFE APPLICATION

One of the primary goals of the church is community. Community is built around a common purpose and common beliefs. We have to agree on the essentials of the faith- without that we can’t have Christian fellowship. We can be friends and acquaintances, but Christian fellowship can only happen around common beliefs and common purpose. That being said, God allows for tremendous variation on the non-essentials and therefore so should we. In our very divided country, more and more people are demanding “doctrinal purity” as a litmus test for relationship. Secular society is demanding more and more that we conform to EVERY belief and practice- no variation or liberty tolerated. Toe the line or be banished. We as the church have a great opportunity to stand in stark contrast to this. We must agree on the essentials, but we cannot allow the secular world to influence us to rigid and dogmatic things that would divide us needlessly.

CHALLENGE

Are there any things that you once believed were essential and now believe are non-essential? Or vice versa? Discuss them here. How can we as a small group continue to keep the main thing the main thing and extend liberty and love to all other areas?