

A Firm Foundation

Solid truths for a shifting world

July 24, 2022 Pastor Shawn



“...there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!”

Luke 15:7

vs. 10 *“In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.”*

Vs. 34 *“We had to celebrate this happy day... He was lost, but now he is found!”*

How do we LOVE others and still stand up for TRUTH and RIGHTEOUSNESS? (Matt 9:10-13)

Jesus' life demonstrated how to live with broken people

To follow Jesus and live out His priorities:

- It means you are willing to GO in obedience
- It means you are willing pray for others
- It means you listen to the Spirit for direction and wisdom in your sphere of influence and relationships (1 Cor 9:19-22)
- It means you are willing to invite them in
- It means you are willing to give up personal preferences and put others first (Phil 2:1-5)
- It means you belong to a community who celebrates the same values and priorities

Two practical ways to start giving priority to the lost

- First, begin praying for at least 3 people in your sphere of influence who don't know Jesus. Look for opportunities of connection.
- Second, begin having minute longer conversations with those around you.

As a Church if we are to represent Jesus' ministry and mission

We need to be a community who seeks, invites, and gives priority to those who are broken and lost in life.

“Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum?”

When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do.” Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’ For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners.”

Matthew 9:10-13

*“Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people **to bring many to Christ**. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew **to bring the Jews to Christ**. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could **bring to Christ** those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law **so I can bring them to Christ**. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.*

*When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground **with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.**”*

1 Corinthians 9:19-22

*“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility **value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus**”.*

Philippians 2:1-5

Discussion:

Does our church give priority to the lost?

Do I give priority to lost people in my life? What could this look like?

Will I be willing to pray for 3 people? Have minute longer conversations with those I don't know? Will I invite people in? Will I give up my personal preferences for the sake of others coming to Christ?