



Vision Sundays 2022

Focused on Jesus, Building Community, Impacting the World.

Pastor Shawn

September 4, 2022

“Becoming a people of worship & community”

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves... Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality...Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.” Romans 12:1-16

What is Christian worship? More than a song...

A living sacrifice as TRUE worship is a LIFE offered in RESPONSE to the mercy of God. Therefore, our worship is motivated from gratitude not from fear or duty.

A life of worship also includes intentional disciplines to give God thanks, praise and honor for who He is and what He has done for us.

These disciplines refocus us on Jesus as Lord, and move us away from the worship of self or things of this world.

“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...” Romans 1:21-22

To **Be Focused on Jesus**, means live a life of Worship. Surrendering all we HAVE and all WE ARE as a living sacrifice in daily obedience to the will of the Father for His glory.

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47

What is Christian Community? More being friendly...

A life of surrendered to Jesus, is a commitment to loving others.

To Build Community is to follow the command of Jesus to love.

You cannot **Be Focused on Jesus** and obedient to Jesus unless you live a life invested in **the community of believers**. Following Jesus will always involve living in community of other followers.

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”
John 13:34-35

“So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God... If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead...

*Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.... And this is **his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another**, just as he commanded us.*

*Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us... If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And **he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their fellow believers**.” 1 John 3-4*

To **Build Community** we must live in relationships where we are known and know others. Christian community is where we can find our identity, our value, our mission, our security and belonging.