

Apply The Word

www.crosswaypa.org



Message Info

Title:

Gospel Centered Fellowship

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

September 19, 2021

Scriptures:

Various

Theme: Belonging to one another begins with belonging to Christ.

Introduction: Everyone wants to belong, and there are many ways that we experience shared identities in our world. It can come through sports, church, family, work, or any number of other groups. The question is not whether we find a sense of belonging in life; but rather, what do we belong to and why do we belong there? In the church, our sense of belonging begins with and is defined by our belonging to Christ.

We can explore Christian belonging under 3 points:

1. Everything begins with Christ

For Christians, everything begins with Jesus (Rom 11:36). Practically, that means that the gospel must play a central role in all that we are and do.

The storyline of Scripture makes clear that the gospel is central. And the writings of the NT show how the gospel is meant to be manifest in all we do. For the Christian, the gospel is always of first importance (1 Cor 15:3).

2. Fellowship begins with Jesus, too

Real fellowship is an implication of the gospel. In his saving work, Jesus did all that we need to save us and to unite us with him.

In being united with him, we are united with one another (Eph 2:19). If we see a deficiency in fellowship in our lives, we should question our grasp of the gospel.

3. Cultivate the conviction

A conviction is a deeply-held belief that works its way out in application. It is part of what it means to be a doer of the word and not merely a hearer.

God has a concern for his people to live in fellowship (Eph 4:15-16). We must view fellowship as a primary means of God's grace so that we can grow.

We need fellowship because of the deceitfulness of sin (Jer 17:9), the reality of effort in our growth, and the need for others to help us to gain proper perspective.

We need help from one another to change and grow as Christians.

Questions:

1. How does your life reflect the priority of biblical fellowship?
2. How would you like to grow in fellowship?
3. How can you take new initiative in fellowship?