

The New Testament Church
Our Church DNA #2: Called to Loving Service
 Pastor Paul Jehle – October 9, 2022

I Churches, like individuals, have unique callings from God...

- A. We are called to apply the Bible to every area of life
 - 1. Every church is called to preach the Bible as the inspired Word of God
 - 2. Confirmed by our history, we are called *train believers in a Biblical worldview*
 - a. Directly and indirectly applying the Bible to every area of life
 - b. Simply put, we are called to ask in every situation, *what does the Bible say?*
 - 3. The Bible illustrates this as being both a *bride* as well as a *city* unto the Lord
 - 4. We have a dual identity in the Scriptures – with heaven as well as with earth
- B. We have been called from the foundation of the world for this time in history
 - a. We fulfill our calling by walking into the works God has foreordained for us!
 - b. Our focus is on *the progressive manifestation of the Kingdom of God*
- C. The historic roots of our Church confirm our call to this geographic area...
 - 1. The deed of July 21, 1669 between the Pilgrims and Herring Pond Natives
 - 2. Our history confirms we are called to preach the Word of God, seeking
 - a. Biblical unity (covenant as we did with Native Americans)
 - b. Be a *community church* where we help to improve society
 - c. Embrace a multi-generational vision joining youth and adults in ministry/education
 - d. Remembering our heritage – July 4 (Chr. History of US), 1901 (yr our church began)

II We are also called to loving service

- A. The two-fold work of the cross – Galatians 6:14
 - 1. Separation unto God – *the world crucified unto me*
 - 2. Influence of the culture – *I crucified unto the world*
- B. Our attitudes toward the culture need adjusting – Beatitudes – Matthew 5:1-12; Luke 16:9
 - 1. An internal heart of brokenness for people communicates love to people (1st 4 beatitudes)
 - 2. Actions of kindness in love helps us make friends of the unrighteous (last 4 beatitudes)
- C. Actions of who we are toward the culture – Similitudes – Matthew 5:13-16
 - 1. We are salt – serve, preserve, works slowly, builds thirst... *but if the salt becomes passive, the culture is given discernment to see this and corrects through over-regulation...*
 - 2. We are light – speak, withdraw investment, works fast... *but if we don't salt before we light we come across arrogant; serving in order to receive*
 - 3. Actions of salt and light done in His Love – 1st John 4:8; 1st Peter 1:22; Jn. 15:10; Lk. 6:27
 - 4. It is good to review the attributes of His love in the midst of darkness – 1st Cor. 13:4-8
(suffering long, kindness, humble, courteous, selfless, self-control, no revenge, emphasize the good, what is true, bearing, believing, hoping, enduring, for love never fails)
- D. The history of our church confirms such loving service
 - 1. Richard Bourne and his son Shearjashub served from 1637 to the early 1700's
 - 2. Alfred and Grace Nye were servants from the early 1900's, leaving legacies for our church
 - 3. Papa (Dave) and Mimi (Marjorie) Calhoun were servants from the 1950's through 1980's
 - 4. We have learned to serve with selfless motives through collecting food, cleaning parades, being public servants, holding candidate forums, praying for legislators, AHTC, etc.
- E. Reminders as we seek to serve
 - 1. As God has intended, we are held to a higher standard
 - 2. We don't serve in order to receive, it will be easily perceived by the world
 - 3. It is the work of the cross that purifies our motives and puts to death our selfishness
 - 4. We don't serve to promote ourselves our church (or its name)