

The New Testament Church
Our Church DNA #3: Called to Disciple Generations
Pastor Paul Jehle – October 16, 2022

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

- A. 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*
- B. 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*
 - 3. The Bible illustrates this as being both a *bride* (heaven) as well as a *city* (earth) unto the Lord
- C. We are called to loving service by embracing the two-fold work of the cross
 - 1. Separation unto God from the world – Jesus crucified for us
 - 2. Influencing the culture by being crucified unto the world
 - 3. Our attitudes toward the culture (beatitudes) produce a response from the culture
 - 4. We are to be salt (serve) and light (our example); all done by the power of love
- D. 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 Disciple the Generations – Deuteronomy 5:29,33; Galatians 3:6-9

- A. When God intended to disciple the nation of Israel, he began with an exhortation to adults:
 - 1. Deuteronomy 5:29 – Oh that there were such a heart in the adults and parents!
 - 2. The promise was that it would give length of time in the land (to see victory) – Dt. 5:33
- B. God exhorts the older generation to be an example and teach those coming after...
 - 1. Psalm 145:4 – One generation shall praise your works to the next
 - 2. Titus 2:4-8 – The older saints are to exhort and give wisdom to the younger
 - 3. Ephesians 6:1-3 – Children are to obey and honor their parents that they live long (idiom)
- C. The gospel covenant to Abraham – receive and give; Gal. 3:6-9; Ge. 12:1-2; 17:10; 18:17-19
 - 1. The condition of receiving was circumcision (or being born again – Ro. 2:29)
 - 2. Condition for blessing the nations was the continuity of the generations (minimum of three)
 - 3. The goal was not just keeping the way, but how to do justice (law) and judgment (equity)
- D. There is a parallel to the Great Commission – evangelism (receive) and discipleship (give)
- E. This calling to disciple is illustrated and confirmed in our history
 - 1. Richard Bourne and his son Shearjashub
 - 2. Twelve to fifteen natives being baptized and founding Indian Meetinghouse (Pondville)
 - 3. The revival in Cedarswamp (Cedarville) in 1880's – illustrated in *Cape Cod Folks* (quotes)
 - 4. Papa and Mimi Calhoun surrounding themselves with the younger generation
- F. Our multi-generational vision
 - 1. We believe our church is called to equip parents to be the primary influencers at home
 - 2. We conduct a school as an extension of homes; bringing all youth into a stable atmosphere
 - 3. We believe all of us are to disciple (3-5 people relationally holding each other accountable)
 - 4. Our worldview is that we would know God's standard and how to leave a legacy...
 - 5. Finally, we must practice Deuteronomy 6 (Shema) – love God, live the truth, the hand (*service*), between eyes (mind), and on the doorposts of our house (*our lifestyle*)