

OPEN

What frame of mind do you enter church? Maybe there isn't only one frame of mind we enter church with, maybe it has more to do with what kind of week we've had. Though, it might be good to evaluate what perspective we “should” have when we walk into church. Just maybe we need time to reset before we get out of our vehicles on a Sunday morning.

Here is one common mindset people enter into church with:

Do we enter making demands? One observer said it this way, “Instead of seeing themselves as the church, people see themselves as supporters of the church. They react to a church like customers. If the store is uncongenial, they are ready to take their business elsewhere. One ‘checks in’ at church now and then. This sort of demand-making fails to GLOW with love because it does not appreciate what the Church is, what the Church’s Lord has made her and equipped her to be.

We are called to GLOW with His love in our callings/vocations and through our local church.

What does it look like to enter into church on any given Sunday with a “love-first” mindset? Give examples.

The Four Areas of Discipleship?

GET Christ's forgiveness in Word and Sacrament.

GROW in grace and knowing Him.

GLOW with His love in your callings and through your local church.

GO tell the Good News about Him in your callings (vocations) and through your local church.

Today, lesson 6 continues our study of step 3, which is the GLOWing with His love in our callings/vocations, church, community, and world.

Ephesians 2:11-22

All of us have been brought together on a Sunday through what? (Verse 13)

What right did we have to draw near to God, apart from Christ?

So a quick summary would remind us we are all brought together by who and with what? Why does remembering this help our perspective when we get to church?

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Paul is describing, quite well, what “love” looks like inside the Church, locally and as a whole. How would you describe this love?

What helps us to understand that everyone can be a participator and giver of this kind of love?

John 13:34-35

Why does Jesus call this a “new” commandment?

In what way will others know we are Christ’s disciples: doctrine, convictions, tattoos, bumper stickers, what?

John 13:1-20

Why would this text have any part in a Maundy Thursday service?

What is it about this text that makes all of us uncomfortable, particularly watching this happen on a Maundy Thursday in a little bit of a contrived setting?

Where is Jesus hoping this kind of “love” is replicated in the lives of His disciples?

What might a more “modern” example of this kind of love be, for us today?

Prayer Time:

Pray about upcoming opportunities to identify a need in a fellow member and the strength from the Holy Spirit to provide the “love” they need.

List other petitions that are heavy on the hearts of members in the group.

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