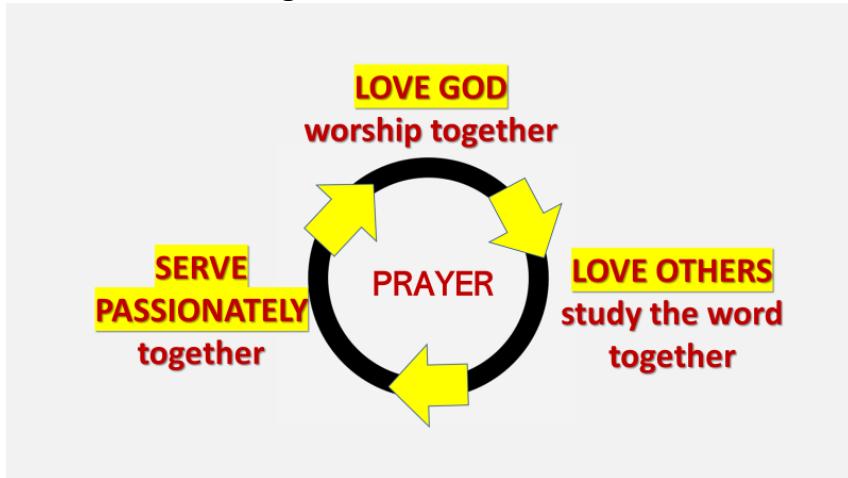




Feedback

We've been talking for several weeks about Life Priorities...



...the priority of worshiping together.

...the priority of studying the word together.

Today we want to talk about our third priority... of serving together.
There is a foundational truth we need to lay out as clear as we can.



The psalmist wrote...



In the beginning... God spoke ...
...and out of nothing, he created everything that is.
When God created humanity, he said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..."



According to Genesis 1, who is humanity?

The scripture teaches us that both male and female are image bearers.

For what purpose was humanity created?

To live in fellowship with the triune God and one another.

But additionally, God entrusted humanity, Genesis 1:26... to steward his creation.

The fall which is described in Genesis 3 brought spiritual and physical death into the human experience, causing catastrophic rupture between mankind and God... and devastating fissures between human beings.

But God did not write humanity off.

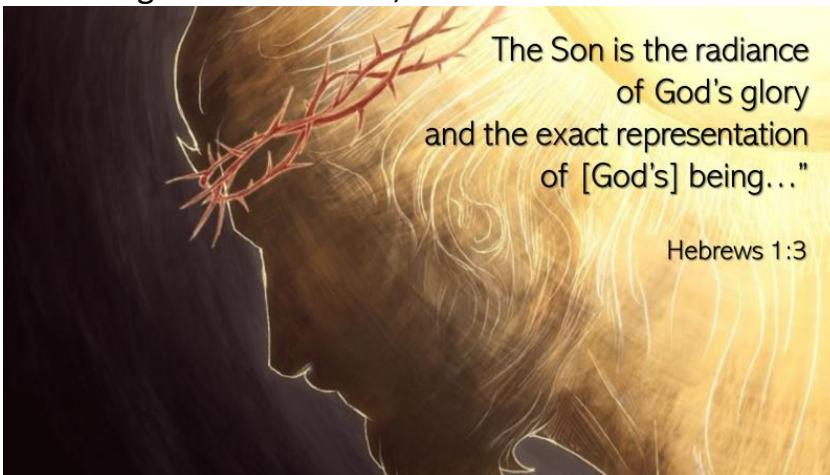
1 Peter 1:20 says that before he created, the triune God knew what our first parents would do, and God the Son was chosen to be the One who would come into the world and rescue humanity with his blood.

God the Son became a man.

According to Colossians 1:15, Jesus Christ is...



According to Hebrews 1:3, Jesus Christ is...



1 Corinthians 15 says that as the God-man Jesus Christ came into this world as the second “Adam.”

He came to live the life that the first Adam had not... he perfectly obeyed God the Father in all things.

And then in love, he willingly sacrificed himself to pay humanity’s sin debt and undo the curse of death.

Remember the OT story of the poisonous snakes?



Numbers 21:4-9

God provided a cure.



This story in Number 21 pointed ahead to Jesus and what he would do in a far greater way.

**Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness,
so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone
who believes may have eternal life in him.”**

John 3:14-15



In the days of Moses, just those in the camp of Israel, were healed if they looked. But since the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, everyone...

Look and live!



... who looks to Jesus... everyone who believes in him... will live!

What motivated God to provide the cure for our sin?

**For God so loved the world that he gave
his one and only Son that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have everlasting life.**

John 3:16



Those who look to Jesus become...

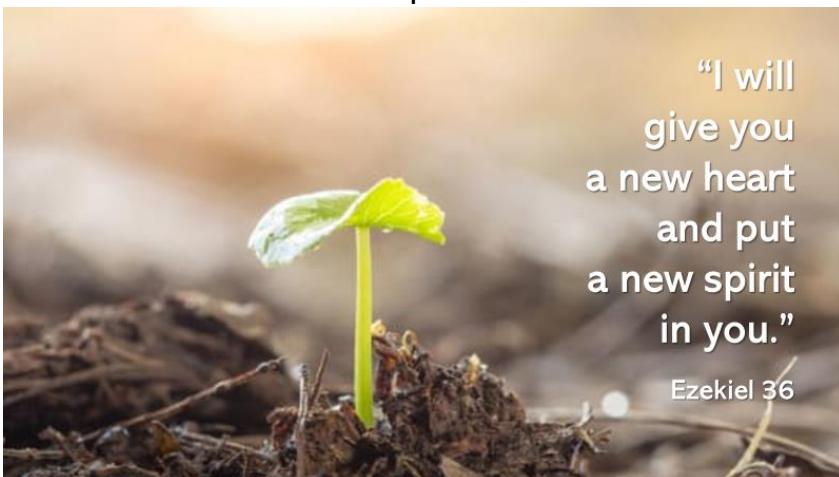


“a new creation”

2 Corinthians 5:17

New in what way?

God himself answers that question in Ezekiel 36:26...



This new heart and spirit is created to be like...

Ephesians 4:24

“...the new self, [is] created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

See also Colossians 3:10

God recreates his image in those who look to and trust in his Savior.

These foundational truths have everything to do with our third life priority.

When Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples, the night before he died, the disciples had a dispute among themselves as to who was the greatest.

At some point Jesus interjected, saying...

"The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them;
and those who exercise authority over them
call themselves Benefactors.

But you are not to be like that.

Instead, the greatest among you
should be like the youngest,
and the one who rules like the one who serves.
For who is greater, the one who is at the table
or the one who serves?

Is it not the one who is at the table? Luke 22:25-27a

Why did Jesus tell the disciples... "you are not to be like that?"

Because he is not like the Gentile kings.

"But I am among you as one who serves.

Luke 22:27b-32

For three and a half years Jesus had been with the disciples.

They knew...that day in and day out, not once had Jesus acted like a Gentile king – not once had Jesus lorded himself over them or others; not once had he acted in arrogant pride; he had never trampled anyone down.

"But I am among you as one who serves.
You have stood by me in my trials. And I confer
on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred
one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my
table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging
the twelve tribes of Israel."

Luke 22:27b-32

Jesus said... there is a kingdom... but it is not like the kingdoms of this world.
And I am a king... and you will be with me... and you will rule with me... but not in
the way that those of this world rule.

The disciples dispute... over who was the greatest... had been an ongoing one.
And we must acknowledge that their issue... was not unique.
It is deeply rooted within our human nature.

On the way to Jerusalem for the last time, this same topic had been argued.
That time it had flared up when the mother of James and John asked Jesus to
agree to her request... that her two sons... sit at Jesus' right and left hand in his
kingdom.

When the other disciples got wind of what James and John's mom had done, they
were furious.

Why?

Probably because they wished they had thought of having their own mom do
what James and John's mom had done.

On the road, Jesus stopped and said to them....

Matthew 20:25-28

Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. **Not so with you.** Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,** and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus encouraged his disciples to become great... and to be first...
...in the things that matter in the kingdom of God...serving like he serves... and sacrificially giving like he gives.

In spite of what Jesus said that particular day, on the road to Jerusalem, the dispute was not over.

It simmered all the way to Jerusalem... and broke out again at the Passover meal, as we just read.

Knowing that this particular dispute was over who was the greatest... how are we to make sense of what Jesus said to Peter at the Passover table?

"But I am among you as one who serves. You have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Luke 22:27b-32

For three + years Jesus had poured his life into the twelve.
They had heard his teaching and seen how he lived.
How had this not been enough to completely transform them?
How could such imbedded sin remain within them?

We learn here that the manner in which God transforms our lives is not instantaneous, but gradual, and requires our participation.

The power of our cancelled sin is weakened and diminished by repeated daily choices to say yes to God.

There are two additional things to be mindful of.

The Holy Spirit had not yet been given because Jesus had not yet given his life in sacrifice and risen from the dead.

The second is this... if and when it is necessary, if and when gentle discipline doesn't work... the Father in his wisdom, will let our sin play itself out in one's lives; he will let Satan sift a child of his, shake them, like a lion shakes its prey.

Why does the Father permit the faith of one of his own to be shaken?

He does so to reveal the horror of sin and the beauty and sufficiency of his Savior.

The followers of Jesus are the forgiven ones.

But what we learn from Jesus' interactions with the disciples is that his followers are also a new kind of human being, in whom, the image of the serpent is being erased and the image of God... is being restored.

There is one more piece we need to add.

Some years later, Peter reminded Cornelius of Jesus' public ministry.

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how **he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil**, because God was with him.

Acts 10:36-38

Peter said that after Jesus' baptism, Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil.

This is a remarkable summary description of Jesus' 3 ½ year ministry – he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil.

There are two defining statements made by Peter that must not be overlooked.

When Jesus began his ministry he announced...

Mark 1:15

"The time has come.
The kingdom of God is near.
Repent and believe the good news!"

Peter told Cornelius that Jesus was anointed by God.

What does it mean to be anointed?

God the Father poured out on Jesus the Holy Spirit, who mediated to Jesus the power of heaven.

Everything Jesus did... he did with the help of the Spirit and in dependence upon heaven's power.

Luke 5:17

One day as he was teaching,
Pharisees and teachers of the law,
who had come from
every village of Galilee,
and from Judea and Jerusalem
were sitting there.

**And the power of the Lord
was present for him to heal the sick.**

In dependence upon the Spirit... Jesus preached.

In dependence upon the Spirit... Jesus did good and healed.

It was not an either/or situation for Jesus.

The two went hand in hand...



It is not different for us today.

As the second Adam, in addition to giving his life to save ours, Jesus demonstrated how life with God is lived – dependent upon the Spirit and heaven's power... to announce the good news and to do good... thereby demonstrating the veracity of the gospel of Jesus.,

In Sooke there is a vibrant volunteer culture.

I am grateful for the hundreds and hundreds of people who give of themselves for the good of others and for the good of the larger community.

I wholeheartedly believe that when God created human beings in his image, male and female, to be stewards, he placed within the human heart a passion to care for the creation and to do good on his behalf.

I believe that passion, in spite of the fall, echoes within every human heart.

But these scriptures we've looked at... teach us that the people of God are more than volunteers.

The scripture teaches us that the same Holy Spirit that filled Jesus, fills us.

The scripture teaches us that same God who was with Jesus, is with us.

The new self which God has recreated in us is like Jesus.

The instinctive orientation of this new nature... is to serve others by doing good... just like Jesus did.



God in addition to placing in us the desire to bless others for the sake of Jesus, gives to us, through the Spirit, giftings of grace, power from heaven, to carry out the very passions and godly longings he places in us.

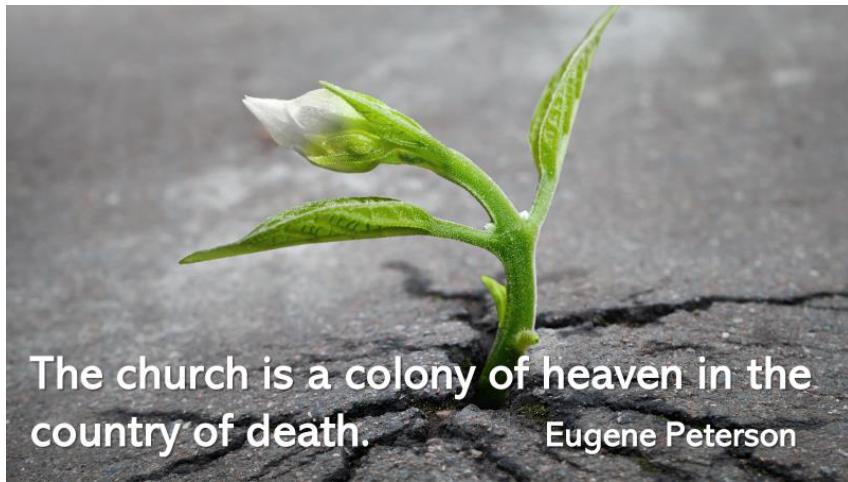
Remember our coffee question?!

How incredible is God!

How great is his mercy and grace!



Who are the people of Sooke Baptist?



The church is a colony of heaven in the country of death.

Eugene Peterson

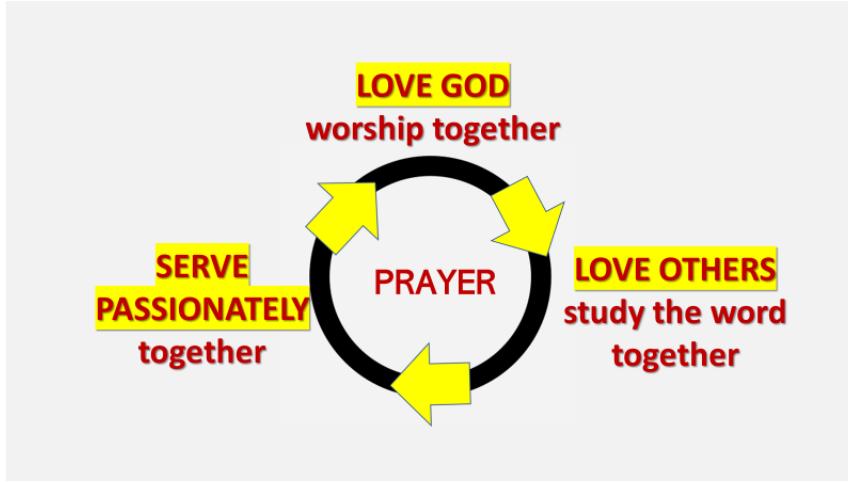
What is it that we spend our lives on doing?

We love God wholeheartedly... and we worship together.

Jesus promises... that when his people gather in his name, he is present with us. Our soul's thirst for him; we long to be in his presence.

We build into our lives a weekly rhythm of worship on the day Jesus rose from the dead... that keeps our lives grounded and centered in the triune God.

We remember in the presence of fellow believers and those seeking God, who our God is... and who we are in him... and for what reason we now live.



We love others as we have been loved by God... and we study the word together, because God says that in doing so, we build our lives like iron sharpens iron.

We believe that God transforms us by the renewing of our minds, and that it is the breathed-out words of God that build our faith and shape our relationships with others.

We learn to speak the truth in love to one another, and to all we interact with, as we study the word together, welcoming God's Spirit to speak truth into our lives through the Scripture and those we study it with.

We serve passionately... together... announcing the gospel and doing good in Jesus' name.

Let me remind you of the serve teams we have here at SBC.

Our Church-Focused Serve Teams

- Worship (singers, instrumentalists, techs, greeters)
- Discipleship
- KidZone (teachers, helpers)
- SYNC Youth
- Prayer
- Elders and Deacons

Our Community Focused Serve Teams

- Grace Gardens
- Big House Breakfast



Our Gospel Proclamation Serve Teams

- Colombia Mission
- Alpha

Our Essential Administrative Serve Team

- Finance (treasurers, tellers)

We do not believe in being a spectator church.

Every person who is a part of this local church has a gifting of grace and a passion that comes from the new self to bless others and to advance the kingdom of God.

Coming out of Covid, I believe that it is God's heart for us, that each of us, will actively use our spiritual giftings.

This is something to talk about in your Discipleship groups...or with one of the deacons... or with Les or myself.

We have been recreated to serve like Jesus... to go about doing good in his name, announcing with our actions and words... his good news.

Prayers of the People: for ourselves

I ask you O God that you search my heart and reveal if there is anything deceitful in me, anything that grieves you. Please speak... I am listening.

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10

Psalm 32:1

Prayers of the People: for my church family

“The Lord gave and the the Lord has taken away; blessed by the name of the Lord.” Job 1:21

O Lord, you told your people that in repentance and rest is salvation, in quietness and trust is strength. (Isaiah 30)
For what you have given in these long months of pandemic I give you thanks... For what you have taken away, I ask for your help to bless your name.

May the people of this church find repentance, rest, quietness and trust in you.

Psalm 32:7

For the church family of El Redil Caldas

I ask on behalf of Kati, who is a single mom, for godly friends who would encourage her in her faith, for steady employment and for spiritual and emotional capacity to raise her son to know and love Jesus.



Psalm 32:8

Prayers of the People: for Awakening

O Father, I ask you to pour out your Spirit on our spiritually dry nation. Please reveal the glory and splendor and beauty of our Lord Jesus, that the people of Canada may long for him.

I offer myself to you to use – my actions and words, for the achieving of this prayer.

Please do this for the glory of the cross and your holy name. I ask these things in His name.

Psalm 32:10