

DIG NOTES

April 14, 2024

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Entrusted With The Church

Group Discussion 1

In this sermon, Pastor Cruise began by talking about how it is common for human expectations of church and God's expectations for church to be quite different ... and even opposed to one another ... when they are compared to one another.

The New Testament gives very little, if any, direction for areas such as:

Worship Style, Preaching Style, or Church Operations. Why do you think the New Testament leaves this out?

Group Discussion 2

One of the points of this sermon was: I am a keeper of protecting others from spiritual endangerment within my church.

And the verse used was Ephesians 4:25

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth to each other, each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

There is language throughout the New Testament, from Matthew 18 to verses like this, where we are instructed and commanded to walk closely with others who are straying, even to the point of discipline within the fellowship. However, American churches rarely practice this anymore.

First Question:

Why do you think the American church culture often balks at practicing accountability within the fellowship?

Second Question:

Has anyone ever had to confront spiritually toxic behavior within a church or small group? What was the process ... and what was the outcome?

Group Discussion 3:

The issues of unity was covered in this sermon. The word "Koinonia" is the main Greek word often used how the early Church functioned. It means closeness with God and with one another. Would someone discuss a season of life where you had incredible closeness within the church?

That could be a small group - or church as a whole - or really any facet of "church" life - where you were walking in close step with a group of people. What was the experience? Where was it? What was different about it?

Asking God. Spend some time today within your small group asking God for genuine closeness to be birthed within the fellowship.