

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
September 4, 2016

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Sunday Morning 09-04-2106

Our lives will come in line with Jesus' mission when his love flows out of us to others, and we learn, to tell the truth about ourselves to ourselves as well as others.

<http://bible.com/events/88535>  
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A suggested prayer as you prepare for the celebration:

Holy Spirit, draw my attention away from worries and problems. Usher me into the presence of King Jesus. Make every area of my life entirely Yours.

Love Them Like Jesus

Have you wondered what you can do to help your family and friends who haven't started following Jesus yet? Don't miss a single message in Pastor Mark's series, Love Them Like Jesus. You'll discover the five habits of highly missional people. The best news is that every one of the habits is enjoyable for both your loved ones and for you.

Prayer for those who don't know Jesus yet:

King Jesus, I know you broke the hold of sin, the world and ignorance over these people's hearts and minds. In your name and by your authority, I declare that the Father's love and the Holy Spirit's peace will saturate their hearts and mind. Open their eyes to see the light, hope, and new life only you can give to them. Remove the blindness from their spirits. King Jesus, through your grace, bring them in contact with people that will expose them to your love. Help me to love them like you love them, until they will welcome you into their lives. Amen.

AS WE STRIVE TO LOVE THEM LIKE JESUS, WE DISCOVER A SHADOWY PROBLEM. We live in a society saturated in denial. We continuously lie to ourselves and others about ourselves.

We stiff arm the truth about ourselves. We convince ourselves that there is nothing really wrong with us. We are essentially good people.

"I'm OK. You're OK. We're all OK" - except for those really evil people, but they aren't like us.

SYMPTOMS OF OUR PROBLEM:

hypocritical  
insensitive and condemning  
intolerant  
judgmental, even hateful

WHAT CAUSES THIS LYING TO OURSELVES ABOUT OURSELVES?

We confuse independence with freedom.

Who is willing to admit our lives are out of control? There's so much at stake.

John 8:31-47 NLT

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will

set you free." "But we are descendants of Abraham," they said. "We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, 'You will be set free'?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free. Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there's no room in your hearts for my message. I am telling you what I saw when I was with my Father. But you are following the advice of your father." "Our father is Abraham!" they declared. "No," Jesus replied, "for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example. Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. No, you are imitating your real father." They replied, "We aren't illegitimate children! God himself is our true Father." Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on my own, but he sent me. Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me! For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies. So when I tell the truth, you just naturally don't believe me! Which of you can truthfully accuse me of sin? And since I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe me? Anyone who belongs to God listens gladly to the words of God. But you don't listen because you don't belong to God."

Sermon in a Sentence:

Confessing our captivity to sin allows Jesus to liberate us.

A NEW POINT OF VIEW

We live in a society saturated in denial. We continuously lie to ourselves and others about ourselves. We stiff arm the truth about ourselves. We convince ourselves that there is nothing really wrong with us. We are essentially good people. Jesus sets us free, to tell the truth about ourselves to ourselves, as well as, to others. "I'm NOT OK. You're not OK either. None of us is OK." But Jesus can set us free as we confess our problem.

Confessing our captivity to sin allows Jesus to liberate us.

Now is the time of God's favor,  
now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

This is the day of liberation.

This is the time to confess the truth.

Jesus paid the price when he died.

He won the battle when he rose to live forever.

Jesus provides the freedom to live with integrity, joy and peace.

Will you receive it?

Will you live in it?

Will you love them like Jesus and tell them Jesus will liberate them too?