



Rock Church

Pastor Miles McPherson | Engage | November 8, 2020

D12 Monthly Focus for November: Gratefully Grows in Generosity

Sermon Application from Sunday's Message:

Pastor Miles wrapped up his current series on “Red or Blue – What Would Jesus Do?” He began talking about the election and how people are now showing their true colors. People who say, “I believe in Jesus,” believe in the Bible, and claim He is the Savior, should be more comfortable with people who share similar faith but separate political views, versus those who have a similar political view but different faith. And it’s proven at this time by how we love people who don’t vote like us. To love those who don’t vote like you, LABEL everyone your neighbor, PRIORITIZE the expansion of God’s Kingdom, not man’s empire, and PLACE the needs of the other person first. Our faith, not political view, needs to be what unites us together.

According to Luke 20, where is your loyalty? Give to the politicians your vote, give to the government your taxes, do whatever is required for whatever their rules are, however, your heart belongs to God. How are we actually going to live out loving those who don’t vote like you? God can and will do amazing things through us, if we let him.

As a group, read through the following statements and discuss the questions below:

1. LABEL everyone your neighbor.

- Read Matthew 22:37-40
- You’re going to meet a lot of people so label them your neighbor, not “those people.” As believers, we gave up that right when we were commanded by God to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” We devalue people when we refer to them other than neighbor, and that is the mentality of the evil one. Instead, put a label on people that is honoring, that is consistent with the Word of God.
- Do you realize that you label people more often than not? Give an example of how you may have recently inadvertently judged someone based on whether or not they have an accent when they spoke, or because of the type of clothing that they wore.

2. PRIORITIZE the expansion of God's Kingdom, not man's empire.

- Read Matthew 6:9-10 and Proverbs 15:1
- Imagine if every time you saw someone, you labeled them not only as “neighbor,” but you saw their talents and gifts through the lens of that label. Be an encourager, a strategist, asking God to show you how the Kingdom of God can be expanded through another person. Ask God, “what is YOUR will in that person's life?” Imagine if God used you to help them bring in to alignment their gifts to be used for God's glory. God can use YOU to leverage those gifts for the expansion of His Kingdom.
- Is there someone in your life whom God is speaking to you about regarding their gift? How could you approach talking to them in a godly manner about the use or misuse of that gift?

3. PLACE the needs of the other person first.

- Read Philippians 2:1-4
- We never know the whole story. Giving love, patience, and kindness, and by just listening, you would learn a lot about yourself and someone else. Ask yourself often, “What can I do?” “Who could I help?” “Whom can I serve?” Place other's needs before your own. Bring life, be other-people centered. As we walk down this new season politically, love actively and intentionally with focus, diligence, and humility; love people who don't vote like you. Love people no matter if you agree on something or not. While we were cursing God, Jesus died for us anyway. Let the Gospel impact your life, walk with Him and become more like Jesus.
- What are some ways you can live out having a servant's mentality?

This Month's Memory Verse:

“There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.” ~Proverbs 11:24 NKJV

This Week's Bible Reading / The Bible Project Videos

1 Corinthians 1-16: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/1-corinthians/>

Proverbs 28: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/proverbs/>

2 Corinthians 1-5: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/2-corinthians/>

Next Steps:

- Be generous. Text GIVE to 52525
- Take the LIFE Class. Text LIFE Class to 52525

