

Main Series Idea:

What does it mean to live a life in the spirit? How do we do it? And more importantly, why should we do it?

Colossians 3: 11-15

11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Question That Need Answers:

1. How have I actually seen my community?
 2. What has been my expectation of the church
 3. How do I fight through discomfort
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Intro

There is deep deep biblical truth found in NSYNC and Boys II Men and its this... community and relationships are hard.

The great lie of unity, is a complete absence of discomfort of confrontation.

1. Christian community means secular hatred.

Luke 12: 49-53

Jesus is in a way smacking the disciples in the face with harsh reality which is this... The person who is against God, will hate you. Choosing Jesus as king and his way life makes life way easier, and it makes life way harder.

We have to be aware, we are called to bring The Kingdom of God to the world around us, but that doesn't mean we won't have those that fight and hate against that Kingdom.

I see more people living in states of disappointment because of how the world reacts towards Christianity, and how people in their circles treat them, when the whole time Jesus states that apart of the whole deal here.

Now does this mean we give up? NO! We keep trying to win the lost, we keep standing up for truth, and we keep declaring the Lordship of Jesus. But keeping this in our minds is great tool to keep us from disappointment.

Church you can't be shocked and upset when the world hates you... You praise Jesus, because what people are actually hating is the Jesus they see in you.

2. Christian Community will be uncomfortable

I have talked a lot about this before... But I love the early church, I think they did a mountain of things better than us and their commitment to each other is unmatched in life today, BUT... They had a mountain of problems and disfunction.

1 Corinthians 5: 1-2

2 Corinthians 12: 20-21

Galatians 1: 6-7

Philippians 4: 2

These scriptures all show the challenge of doing life together in the early church.

Here is the reality... Living in the early church wasn't easy. That's not because the early church was bad, but rather, because living in community with people is hard.

Doing life with people is extremely challenging... It's one of the things we talk about when people start cohorts, because the expectation is, this is just going to go well there will never be any disagreements or discomfort, but that's just not possible.

Whether it's family, friends, our children, our parents, our spouses even sometimes, doing life with people is difficult, and here is the grave error we have made in the modern western church of today... When church gets difficult, we move on.

When the service is too long we move on, when it doesn't seem to fit how I want it to look, I move on. When we talk about hard topics we move on, when someone in the church hurts our feelings or makes us uncomfortable, we simply move on.

"You have mistaken comfort for peace for so long that discipline now feels like suffering." - Stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius

EMPHASIS: **COMMUNITY**

TOPIC: **COMMUNITY AS DISCOMFORT**

There is a reality that we all must face which is this...

Discomfort is not ungodly.

CLOSING

There is a statement we throw around which is "follow your peace"... Which is a really bad statement. The statement should be "follow the peace of The Lord", our peace often wants to lead us away from discomfort, even if its for our good.

Because most of life's discomforts is actually for our good.

Be Love we will head down a dangerous road if we constantly are trying to avoid discomfort, because, honestly, truth is often uncomfortable.

I can't promise you that life inside the church is going to be perfect, but I know God has called us to do life together, because together we have the chance to change our city, our county, and the world around us.
