



October 20, 2024

BE: WEEK 3
BE RELATIONAL

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:8-12

Big Idea: In our increasingly fragmented world, *who* we are and *what* we are called to be as God's holy people is increasingly at odds with *where* we find ourselves. As spiritual foreigners and exiles, we are called to live out our holiness in relationship with others. Doing so both sustains us in our current cultural moment and makes us a compelling contradiction to the dominant values of our day.

The Challenge: In what ways are you being shaped more by the radical individualism of our day when it comes to your experience of Christian community? How is Jesus calling you to deepen your intimacy with Him by deepening your relationship with your Christian brothers and sisters? Peter calls the church to be like-minded, fiercely committed, and humble. Are there areas in which you need to grow?

Pastoral Prayer for this Message: I pray that we would grow in Christ-likeness -- and encounter Jesus in richer ways -- as we deepen our relationships with each other. I also pray that people's experience of us at KAC would bring them into a deep sense of belonging where they encounter Jesus in the ways we demonstrate fierce unity, loyalty and humility.

Questions for Discussion:

The Context:

In our increasingly fragmented world, *who* we are and *what* we are called to be as God's Holy People is increasingly at odds with *where* we find ourselves. Peter uses the terms "exiles" and "foreigners" to help us better understand the spiritual displacement we feel when the dominant values of our day run contrary to our own. By virtue of our faith in Christ, our ultimate home is eternal life with God, and Christians therefore are just "passing through". In a sense, we live spiritually homesick for a land we do not currently inhabit, and we wait for God to bring us "home".

1. Does this resonate with you at all? In what ways have you experienced being a spiritual "exile" and a "foreigner" because of your faith?

The Call:

Read 1 Peter 3:8-9. As spiritual foreigners and exiles, Peter calls the church to live out their identity as God's Holy People in the context of deep, enriching community. Our holiness is both fostered -- and on display -- in the context of community. It sustains us during opposition and makes us a compelling contradiction to the dominant values of our day.

2. In what ways has your experience of Christian community shaped you more into the image of Jesus? In what ways have you encountered Jesus in the context of community?

3. In 1 Peter 3:8, Peter calls the church to be like-minded, fiercely committed and profoundly humble. In what ways have you experienced this in Christian community? In what ways have you experienced the opposite? What were the results?
4. In 1 Peter 3:9, Peter calls the church to bless their enemies. Do you have any personal experience living this out? What happened?
5. How do you think true Christian community would make the church a compelling contradiction to the world? What would KAC look like, or what would your group look like, if you were to continue growing in the ways you foster true Christian community?

The Confidence:

Read 1 Peter 3:10-12. Peter says that those who bless their enemies will be blessed in return, and then he quotes Psalm 34 to support his claim. In Psalm 34, David says that “life” and “good days” are available to those who turn from evil and do good. Both David and Peter are not saying that we can earn God’s favour. Instead, their claim is twofold: (1) the blessings of life with God have already been made available to us in Christ, and as we walk in obedience to his ways, we experience that life in increasing measure, and (2) God will eventually deliver us out of “exile” and bring us “home” where we will experience the fullness of life with him.

6. What are the blessings of being in relationship with God?
7. In what ways do you feel homesick for a land you don’t inhabit? In other words, in what ways do you long for God to bring you “home” where you will experience complete right relationship with Him and right relationship with others?

The Challenge:

In what ways are you being shaped more by the radical individualism of our day when it comes to your experience of Christian community? How is Jesus calling you to deepen your intimacy with Him by deepening your relationship with your Christian brothers and sisters? Peter calls the church to be unified, fiercely committed, and humble. Are there areas in which you need to grow? Are there areas where your group could grow even deeper together?