

Respond to the Gospel

Week of Nov. 21st
1 Cor. 7:17-24

The church is not comprised of a uniform group of people but is a diverse body with different backgrounds, differing cultures and life experiences. What brings us together is that we have each responded to the gospel call of God and, consequently, have made the Lord the Lord of our lives. It is out of that relationship that every other human relationship needs to be viewed.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 7:17 – Paul makes it clear that we all have a unique purpose and calling. God wants to use you right where you are! We all can be missionaries right where God has placed us.
 - What is your unique mission field? Who are the people you can reflect Christ to that others may not have opportunity to?
 - In what ways might God want to use you in this unique season of isolation to be a light to those He's placed around you?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 7:18-20 – Circumcision was a sign between God and the descendants of Abraham (Jews). But in the church in Corinth there were Jews & Greeks worshipping together, and Paul instructed them to stop focusing on the things on the outside and to focus on their identity as followers of Jesus.
 - Paul and Pastor Kurt emphasized that our unity in Christ transcends our differences and there is great beauty in the diversity of the body of Christ. In what ways do you appreciate the diversity in the church? How can we seek unity instead of uniformity?
 - We can so easily find our identity in other things outside of Christ. What are some of the things you look to in order to define who you are instead of your identity in Christ?
 - Pastor Kurt challenged us to consider our experiences (both good and bad), our relationships, and our interests to recognize the unique mission field that only we can live in. Take a few minutes to consider that and then share the unique sphere of influence that God has given you. What specific opportunities do you have to reflect Him that no one else does?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 7:21-24. Here we are challenged to consider that no matter what our circumstances are or what freedoms might be taken away, we are free to serve God right where we are.
 - What stood out to you from Pastor Howie's story and from the story of Martha Lewis?
 - In what ways is God inviting you to use your unique purpose, identity and circumstances to reflect Christ to those around you?

NOTES:

OTHER RESOURCES

READY TO GO DEEPER?

New Testament Reading

Many of us started this reading plan on Oct. 1st. If you haven't jumped in yet, it's not too late.

Here's the specific passages for this week. You can find all the details for the reading plan and an optional podcast that explains each day's reading at

www.woodmenvalley.org/bible

Join us on your Woodmen campus FB page to hear what people are sharing about what they are learning.

Nov. 21st – Acts 13-14

Nov. 22nd – James 1-5

Nov. 23rd – Acts 15-16

Nov. 24th – Galatians 1-3

Nov. 25th – Galatians 4-6

Nov. 26th – Acts 17

Nov. 27th – 1 Thess. 1-5, 2 Thess. 1-3

As you read or listen, consider the following...

- What do I learn about God and His character?
 - What do I learn about His heart for unity?
 - What promises can you cling to?
- What is He encouraging you to believe, think or do?

Outside our Walls

Gift of Love

Because of COVID, we've had to change the format of this event, but we're still committed to making sure that this Christmas is a special one for these families, as it's perhaps more needed this year than ever before. **What we really need is for you to set aside a bit of extra money to go shopping for a new Christmas gift (or a few!) and bring them by your Woodmen Campus the weekend of Dec. 5 and 6.** At each campus that weekend, we'll have volunteers and staff there to greet you in a drive-up-and-drop-off donation line, making it easy to be a part of the event. How cool would it be if, instead of traffic jams after a weekend service, we had one because our congregation was so generous in dropping off new Christmas gifts?!

<https://woodmenvalley.org/giftoflove>

DIVE IN ON YOUR OWN TO GET READY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Consider Your Impact

1 Corinthians 7:25-40