

Sermon Notes

The New Life Part 7: The Church – Citizens of Heaven

July 2nd – 3rd, 2022

- **The New Life**
- Jesus changed the world with two words, “Follow Me.”
 - We are called out of the old and into the new, to be born again, to live new life in Christ.
- In this series we are looking at what that new life looks like, common experiences on that road.
- **The Church: Citizens of Heaven**
- When we come to believe in Jesus we need to navigate belonging.
 - My early process...who’s right?? The freedom that came from that was fantastic.
 - Yet, I still didn’t feel like I belonged. There were legit reasons for that.
- We belong to God’s family, the Body of Christ, the Church.
 - There is one group, not many. **John 10:16**
 - Jesus prayed for our unity. **John 17:20-23**
 - Who answers this prayer??
 - How does “The Church” work? **Ephesians 4:11-16**
 - Leaders lead in their callings. Believers serve in their giftings. We all stand together.
- You may have noticed that this isn’t actually working all that well.
 - There is more division in the Body of Christ than there is in the USA.
 - Why? Too many believers, in their pride, have answered Jesus prayer in John 17 with “Heck No!!”
- This actually began in the New Testament Church.
 - **1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 1 Cor 3:1-9.**
 - Is God ok with this?? **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**
 - How do we navigate this? Continuing in **1 Corinthians 3:18-20** (more condemnation of division). But then we get the answer in the next two verses: **1 Corinthians 3:21-22.**
 - All are yours! You and I belong to the whole thing! Sweet!!
 - Be a faithful, fruitful citizen of Heaven!!
- Holy Communion in the context of belonging.
 - **1 Corinthians 10:14-17**
 - V14, is this referencing idolatry leader/denomination worship?? Not sure.
 - The scary Holy Communion verses, **1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 23-26, 27-34.**
 - Interpret v27-29 from the perspective of the unity of the believers.
 - Do you participate in the Body of Christ?
 - Did you notice and greet people before/after church?
 - Do you watch for and include those on the outside or the fringes?
 - Are you careful not to slander other denominations, groups, or leaders?
 - Unity is an attitude of the heart!!
- Let’s receive Holy Communion together, discerning the Body of Christ.
 - Our Communion Scripture will be **John 17:20-23.**
 - Let us receive and stand together for the cause of Christ.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.