

2016-05-15

└ Introduction

└ An English breakfast

An English breakfast



09:30

Introduction

God wants a relationship with people

God wants a relationship with people

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

09:34

2016-05-15

└ Introduction

└ Goals

Goals

- Review the separation that existing under the Old Law between God and His people
- Appreciate the breadth of people that make up the New Testament church
- Propose godly ways we can enhance the inclusiveness of the Lord's church

09:35

└ Old vs. New

└ The tabernacle separated the Israelites from
God

The tabernacle separated the Israelites from God
Heb. 9:1-14

- The presence of God was in the Most Holy Place
- Even the high priest went in only once per year
- Gifts and sacrifices were offered that could not clean the conscience of the worshipers.
- Regular people could never go in.

09:38

2016-05-15

└ Old vs. New

└ Jesus opened the way

Jesus opened the way

Heb. 10:19-22

- We now have confidence to enter the most holy place.
- We should draw near to God with a full assurance of faith

09:40

└ Old vs. New

└ Jesus opened the way for everyone

- The mystery of the gospel is that Gentiles can be God's people.
- We are all...
 - fellow heirs
 - members of the same body
 - partakers of the promise
- The church is (and should be) made up of all sorts of people

09:44

└ The breadth of church

└ Early or Late

- Every Christian gets heaven as their reward, whether they obeyed the gospel early in life, or later.
- Avoid saying, "Why can't they just get it together?"
- You don't want a congregation made entirely of 'mature' Christians.

09:48

1. It's difficult for *everyone* to change their bad habits.
2. Certainly, we shouldn't let people languish in spiritual infancy (e.g., Hebrews 5:13).
3. However, change can be slow
4. If you don't have New Christians, watch out.
5. Churches without new Christians are about to die.

└ The breadth of church

└ Rich or Poor

- Don't favor people just because they appear wealthy.
- Don't avoid people who are dressed poorly.

09:52

1. Typically a rich person (at least on the outside) is going to have less to deal with than a poor person.
2. A poor person is going to be more work.
3. If you *are* rich, don't expect the power you have in secular life to translate into the church.
4. This can happen to anyone who is in charge of folks at their job.
5. You get used to people following your orders, and you (consciously or not) think that should translate to church.

└ The breadth of church

└ Educated or uneducated

- Not many Corinthian Christians were from upper social classes. (But, the were in Philippi)
- True Christianity is never going to be followed by the majority.
- Our appeal and power lies in spiritual authority not worldly wisdom.

09:56

1. Corinthians not many wise.
2. We're pretty distrustful of education at Walnut Street
3. The point Paul is making is that you don't try to beat intellectuals at their own game
4. What we provide is never going to 'make sense' to those who rely solely on their own intellect.

└ Build inclusiveness

└ Christians are each part of a body, and work toward unity.

Christians are each part of a body, and work toward unity.
Eph. 4:1-16

- ▶ We share one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God
- ▶ What unites us is greater than what could divide us.
- ▶ God has given Christians to be apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors, teachers.
- ▶ What else?

10:00

1. There are specific jobs for the Lord that Paul lists.
2. Some of these, like apostles, aren't possible today.
3. Some required spiritual gifts.
4. Does that mean that God does not still give through his providence different and important abilities to the Christians in the church?
5. Of course not! People have and can develop talents in many areas that will benefit the Lord's work.

└ Build inclusiveness

└ Don't allow culture to separate you

Don't allow culture to separate you

James 2:1-7

- Don't offend others.
- Don't be easily offended.
- Resist the urge to be friends with only those 'like' you.
- Try to recognize cultural traditions vs. Biblical authority.

10:04

1. Traditions aren't bad, as long as, in the back of our mind, we recognize that they are traditions.

2016-05-15

└ Build inclusiveness

└ What areas could we improve on to increase the inclusiveness of the Lord's church?

What areas could we improve on to increase the inclusiveness of the Lord's church?

- Talk with everyone.
- Go to group meetings.
- Have people over to your house.
- ...

10:08

└ Review

└ From the Least to the Greatest

10:12

From the Least to the Greatest

God has removed His separation from us.

- Regular people could never go into the physical tabernacle.
- Now everyone can draw near to God through Jesus.
- The church is made up of all sort of people.

Embrace the cultural breadth of the New Testament church.

- Heaven is our common reward.
- Don't favor people just because they appear wealthy.
- Our power lies in spiritual authority not worldly wisdom.

Find godly ways to enhance our inclusiveness

- Unity in the gospel is greater than cultural differences.
- Don't offend or be easily offended.
- Do things with Christians outside of worship.