

Self-disclosure Questions/Icebreakers

The reality of 9/11 has convinced many that evil is not just an adjective, but it is also a noun. What situation or event, if not 9/11, has had this affect on you? What major event do you think could have had this impact on your grandparents?

Scripture – Jeremiah 17:1-13

Suggested Prayer

Our Father in heaven, help us now to face the sobering presence and power of sin. Lord, help us to remember that the danger is not only in the world around us but also in each of us. In these uncertain times, may we wholeheartedly turn to your Son for redemption: the forgiveness of sins. And Father, empower us by your Spirit to go and spread the news of this redemption to all we know.

Sermon Take-Away – If you need/want to review it, Pastor Colin talked about...

1. The enigma of the double image
 - a. Man is made in the image of God
 - b. Man is born in the likeness of Adam
2. This teaches us that. . .
 - a. Sin is in us by nature
 - b. Sin is a vicious enemy
 - c. Sin leaves us needing the intervention of God
 - i. God restrains sin
 1. *Through law*
 2. *Through conscience*
 3. *Through common grace*
 4. *Through judgment*
 - ii. God redeems sinners

What was your take-away from this week's sermon?

Discussion Questions – Choose as few or as many as you'd like.

1. Sometimes Christians can be confused over the idea of the 'double image'. We tend to fall off the horse, so to speak, on one side or the other. How would you make sense of 9/11 if you only believed that man was made in the image of God (i.e., 'upright')? How would you respond to the horror of 9/11 if you only believed that man is born in the likeness of Adam (i.e., sinful)? Why is it important to believe both?

2. Pastor Colin said “Sin runs in the blood. Grace does not.” How should this truth change how you tell your story of getting saved if you were raised in a Christian family and thought that you were ‘born a Christian’? How does it affect the way you *feel* about being a Christian today?

3. Most treat sin as though it were crayon scribbled on a painted wall. In reality, however, we ought to treat the power of sin in us as though it were mold growing in a wall. Read Genesis 4:1-16. In this passage, did Cain treat sin as though it were merely crayon on a wall or mold in a wall? How so?

4. Pastor Colin’s third main point was that “sin leaves us in need of God’s intervention.” One of the ways God intervenes is by *restraining* sin and He does this in four different ways (see sermon outline above). Which of God’s methods to restrain sin were you most surprised to find on the list? Why?

5. God’s restraining intervention was likened to the ‘cutting back’ of weeds, whereas God’s *redeeming* intervention was likened to the ‘pulling up’ of weeds. This ‘pulling up’ of sin will take place once Jesus returns to the earth in glory. How does this way of speaking about the future shed light on the horrors of hell and the glories of heaven?

Suggested Closing Prayer

Pray that God makes you aware of opportunities to explain to others the reality and power of sin and the redemption that God has provided in Jesus Christ.