

Reset – Part 5

Community: People Matter Most

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People matter most. This is important in our “Reset” church series because it’s so easy to think that a church policy matters most, or leadership position matters most, or a great parking spot matters most, or a certain program matters most!

In reality, there are necessary things like: financial responsibility/accountability, security and safety procedures, consistency, integrity and follow-through. But, all these things should be valued not because the organization matters most, but because people matter most.

People mattered most to Jesus and therefore, they must matter most to us.

In Matthew 12, Jesus and His disciples were hungry on the Sabbath day.

Luke 7 - The woman anointing Jesus’ feet

On the cross, Jesus prayed for His enemies because people mattered most.

There are over 60 “one anothers” in the New Testament epistles.

“love one another”

“comfort one another”

“bear with one another”

Galatians 5:15 says, “... don’t bite and devour one another”

Hebrews 10:24-25 - *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, v.25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

The writer here describes a not so healthy habit and a very unhealthy one – not meeting together for the sake of one another is not healthy.

Some would say they don’t need church; they’ll just worship by themselves.

Think that if you want. It’s not scriptural. People develop best in an atmosphere of being together. We need each other.

People Matter Most

1) Consider your positive and negative effect on people.

Hebrews 10:24 - Let us consider...

- a) "To consider" means to think ahead of time.

Don't live in the moment in regards to your church life.

- b) Don't be negligent.

By neglecting our gatherings, you're neglecting people.

Because people matter most, the Word is telling us to not form a habit of blowing off our gatherings.

- 2) Stir up love and good things, not trouble.

Hebrews 10:24-25 - *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, v.25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

The Greek word translated "encourage" is an interesting word. It's a word that usually has a negative meaning. It means "to irritate or incite." It's a word that suggests the idea of prodding, poking, and spurring.

- a) Spur one another by provoking to good works!

- b) To spur and to stir mean the same thing.

- c) There are certain things that stir up good things in others:

i) Seeing people worship passionately stirs me up to want to worship!

ii) Seeing people get touched by the power of God when they have a need!

iii) Seeing people sitting on the edge of their seat eager for the Word... taking in the Word... stirs me up.

iv) Seeing older people gently teaching and caring for children just stirs me up!

v) When I see someone working extra hard behind the scenes unto the Lord and not looking for credit... it stirs me up!

vi) One college student said, seeing someone love an elderly person.

- 3) Above all else, be an encourager of people.

People need to be encouraged.

Philippians 2:1-2 NAS - *Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, v.2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.*

a) Be creative: One translation says, "Lets see how inventive we can be in encouraging" others.

b) Be Forgiving. Forgiveness is a great encouragement.

Proverb 17:9 - *Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.*

c) Just showing up - Showing up is so often a great encouragement.