LIFE OR DEATH
THE BOOK OF JOHN

Pastor Chris Brown
April 15-16, 2023
Message #15 / John 7:1-36
northcoastchurch.com/sermons

Why Church Is A Dirty Word

The problems with the Church back then:

John 7:1-36

Real **LOVE** has always been hard to **HEAR**
and hard to **ACCEPT**.

Real **TRUTH** has always been polluted by
PUBLIC opinion and hard to speak **PUBLICLY**.

The **ACTIONS** in the Church have been the
greatest **OBSTACLES** to God using His **CHURCH**.

What the Church has to be now:
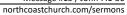
Real love has to be **SHOWN** for it to be **ACCEPTED**.

Real truth has to come from **GOD**, not **CULTURE**.

The bridge that **TRUTH** will travel over is **LOVE**.

We are the Church:

We are both the **LOVE** and **TRUTH** of Jesus.

We are **PLAN A**, and there is no **PLAN B**.

Why Church Is A Dirty Word

The problems with the Church back then:

John 7:1-36

Real _____ has always been hard to _____
   and hard to _____.

Real _____ has always been polluted by
   _____ opinion and hard to speak _____.

The _____ in the Church have been the
   greatest _____ to God using His _____.

What the Church has to be now:

Real love has to be _____ for it to be _____.

Real truth has to come from _____, not _____.

The bridge that _____ will travel over is _____.

We are the Church:

We are both the _____ and _____ of Jesus.

We are _____, and there is no _____.

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Life Group Study Questions
For the week of April 16, 2023

This weekend we saw how people were celebrating the truth of God's deliverance and love in one moment but failing to see how it changes how they live in the next. Was there anything that caught your attention, stood out, challenged how you live, or confused you from the message this weekend?

1. Have you ever had a person in your life who spoke meaningful words to you that were hard to hear but stuck with you? If so, what did they say and why did it stick? Is it still shaping you today?

2. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt out of place with the rest of the people there, like at a party, work, or church, for example? What would have helped you feel more comfortable in that situation?

1. Jesus taught truth that can be difficult to accept at times. The truth of God's Word is something that points us to the realization that He wants a relationship with us not just knowledge of information about Him. We can spend time celebrating and appreciating God's love for us one moment, only to forget that it changes our lives and actions the next.

As you read through the following lessons that Jesus taught, write down in your own words what you think Jesus is trying to teach us.

> ### Luke 10:25-37 New International Version (NIV)
> [5] On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" [26] "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" [27] He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" [28] "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." [29] But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" [30] In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. [31] A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. [32] So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. [33] But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. [34] He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. [35] The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' [36] "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" [37] The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Matthew 7:24-27 New International Version (NIV)

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

Of the two passages, was there one that you most needed to hear? Why?

If a close friend or family member had to identify you as one of the characters in the passage you chose, which would they choose? Why?

Think of a loose acquaintance, someone whom you know from work or the neighborhood but haven't really spent much time with. If that person had to identify you as a character in the passage, which would they choose? Why?

2. Chris reminded us this weekend that the truth of God's Word is already going to be difficult for us to hear and so we ought to be a community of believers who love well. This reflection of His love invited us and also invites others into God's family. Let's look at some family traits we ought to have as we are inviting the broken, lost and hurting, of which we all once were.

As you read 1 John 4:7-12 and 1 Peter 4:7-11 circle the phrases that teach us about what love is. What is the reason why we should love others based on the phrases you circled above?

1 John 4:7-12 New International Version (NIV)

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 Peter 4:7-11 New International Version (NIV)

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

How would you distinguish the difference between someone who is a nice person versus someone who is a loving person?

This weekend, what are some ways you and your group could see, connect with, and show the love of Christ to the lonely, hurting or new person who walks on your campus?

Memorization Option: If you would like to work on memorizing 1 John 4:19 as a reminder of why we love others, do it!

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

TAKING IT HOME

Sometimes the best thing we can do for others is to pray for them. Set aside a moment this week to ask God to show His love to someone who randomly crosses your path. Your prayer could look as simple as this. "God would you please show your love to _____ in a way they can feel it and know it's You today."

PRAYER REQUESTS

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