



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Good and Beautiful and Kind: Abide Together

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: John 15:5-12

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

Becoming someone who can remain present to oneself and to another, especially in times of disagreement or distress, is one of the most important things we can do to see the world become whole.

Calm Presence

Remaining close and curious to God and myself, while remaining close and curious to others, especially in times of high anxiety.

In today’s scripture, Jesus is about to summarize the three years of his teachings. As he is doing this, he is inviting us to abide with him. Abide is a word that is listed over 60 times in the gospel of John.

Answer the questions below to help you see if you have what it takes to abide with others.

1. What does it mean to stay connected?
2. How can we hold space with one another?
3. How can we resist the emotional and relational cutoffs that seemingly mark the entire world?
4. How can I move close to people who have very different visions of what human flourishing looks like?
5. Do I have what it takes to listen deeply and offer a calm presence to those who don’t see the world as I do?

Meno: to remain, stay, dwell; to continue to be present, to continue in relationship, to wait; to accept; to suffer for; to submit to; to act in accord with; to be faithful to.

To abide in Jesus is to abide in the wholeness of the world. The relationship with have with Jesus is to be embodied in our relationships with one another.

**Remaining Close to God
Remaining Close to Each Other
Remaining Close to Myself**

The primary goal of the gospel is to create a new family in the name of Jesus so that God is at work in the world.

May we be people who cultivate presence with God and presence with one another.

God longs to be present with us to dwell with us and dwell with humanity. Jesus Christ become human, longing to be with us. God sends the Holy Spirit to live in us so that we may become present with one another.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our series entitled *Good and Beautiful and Kind*. Today Pastor Rich explores what it means remain close to God, to ourselves, and to one another.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. Where do you go when you are stressed? Where do you go when there are significant disagreements taking place in your life? When you are in experiencing these emotions and situations, are you someone who fuses with others or are you someone who cuts off emotionally from other people?
3. What does your relationship with Jesus look like right now? Does it look like the words listed above that describe "meno" or abiding? Is your relationship one that you dip in and out of when you feel like it or is your relationship with Jesus one where you are dwelling with him? When you allow yourself to dwell with Jesus, transformation can happen right before your eyes.
4. Are you present to God, to yourself and to others around you? What does this look like in your life right now? May we be able to love one another in the name of Jesus.