



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: God and Our Bodies: Resisting the Culture Wars

Speakers: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: Luke 9:51-56

⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; ⁵³ but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then he and his disciples went to another village. (NIV)

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our sermon series entitled God and Our Bodies. Today Pastor Rich will lead us through a topic that has caused great tension and division within the Church—Culture Wars. We will learn about the various ways the Church tends to be in relationship with the surrounding culture and how Jesus calls us to engage the world around us.

Sermon Questions:

1. When you think about "culture wars" what comes to mind?
2. Rich mentioned four postures that captured the Church's relationship to the larger culture (against, escape, transform, alternative community). Which of these four have shaped your life most?
3. Rich highlighted 5 statements (listed below) that name the ways culture wars take root in us. Which of these 5 do you resonate with most? What would you add to the list?
 - We carry a "God is with us, but not with them" impulse.
 - We no longer see image bearers to be engaged, but threats to be eliminated.
 - We believe that we are fighting for truth so our hatred is justified.
 - Political power is necessary to make the most of the gospel.
 - Fear is the primary lens through which we see the world.
4. Jesus calls the Church to be an alternative community within the culture, not to transform the culture. Do you agree with this statement? Why/why not?
5. What is one invitation from God that you want to spend time within light of this message?