



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Vision Sunday: Becoming Who You Already Are

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 (NIV)

Sermon Outline:

In this passage of scripture, we see Paul writing to church at Corinth. Holiness is a word that Paul talks about in the beginning of this letter to the church. He calls the church sanctified and saints, although looking at their lives they were anything but this. We see many problems in the book of Corinthians – there was division among their leaders, they fought over communion and were experiencing problems regarding sexuality, maturity and love. Despite all of these problems and issues Paul still calls them saints, not because of what they had done but because of what God had done. He tells them to become who they already are – wanting them to become something different than what the world offers.

God has a way of calling people to things that their lives seem to contradict. We are sanctified and made new people not because of us but because of what God has done through Christ on the cross. God wants us to become what he says we already are - something different than what the world offers.

Holiness is not about what your separating yourself from but what you give yourself to, so that we can be a different people, a holy people. The world is longing for a community marked by profound transformation. Where we lead lives of justice, mercy and forgiveness. God wants to transform us deep below the surface of our lives.

New Life's 5Ms:

Multi-Racial: bridging racial, cultural, economic and gender barriers.

Because we are a multi-racial congregation, we experience the blessings of diversity found in the image of God lived out in the lives of others. We also know that there are going to be disagreements and troubles and will work on figuring this out, knowing that God has another plan.

eMotionally Healthy: loving ourselves and others well.

The world has a hard time loving, and many of us live our lives as strangers to ourselves. Not only is this about loving well, it is also about our ability to wrestle with the complexity of what it means to be human and seeing that what we are experiencing on the inside is the same on the outside.

Marriage to Christ: shaping our lives out of our marriage to Christ.

Learning the tools that we need so our marriages and singleness reflect the kingdom and love of God. Your marriage is not just for you but for the world around you. It is to be a gift to others. Your singleness shows the world what is possible by offering what is uniquely available to others and to Christ.

Missional: offering ourselves as a gift to the world.

The world needs people to be on mission showing them the healing love of Jesus Christ. *We are called to be in God for the world, not in the world for God.* We are to offer ourselves to others in the world. Our lives are to be so saturated with God that we offer this to others.

Monastic: slowing down to be with God.

Our lives are meant for slowing down to be with God. Finding ways each day and each week for rhythms of prayer and silent times of being alone with God.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday Lead Pastor Richard Villodas' sermon on Vision Sunday is about Becoming Who You Already Are. Today Pastor Rich discusses five values specific to New Life Fellowship and how we are to live out these values in our lives.

Sermon Questions:

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, who was admired, upheld? Was this a person in your family or was it someone famous? What were the attributes that you admired about them?
3. When think holy, who do you think of? What attributes do they hold that you feel displays holiness?
4. When looking at the five values of New Life - Multi Racial, eMotionally Healthy, Marriage to Christ, Missional and Monastic - which value do you find easiest? Which of these values do you find most difficult and how can you work to improve living out that value now and into the coming year?
5. What does it look like for you to show God's love to the world? What behaviors and practices can you instill to walk in a way to shows love to others?