



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Sacramental Living: Finding God in the Ugly**

**Speaker: Redd Sevilla, Executive Director, CDC**

**Scripture: Genesis 1: 26-28, 2:15**

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created mankind in his own image in the image of God he created them male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

*Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15*

#### **Sermon Outline:**

- Politics at its core means things concerning the city. Today much of politics is blaming and pointing fingers and it is ugly. God is the source and author of governing and ruling, and he turned over governing and ruling to humanity. The ugliness in government often mirrors the ugliness of society. The norm in government is blame and finger pointing and when someone crosses the aisle, people are surprised and shocked that they are willing to cooperate with the other side.
- The Christian adds value to politics and government, and we are made in God's image so that we might rule. Christ carried the government on his shoulders. As followers of Christ are not meant to live in a bubble, but we are to be aware of what is going on in our communities, neighborhoods and our country. We are here to represent the Kingdom of God and not political candidates.
- Christians add value to this conversation. At New Life, we have the EHS and EHR Courses where we learn how to listen incarnationally, practice clean fighting, and explore our icebergs with others. When you are having conversations regarding government and politics, and able to use these skills, you will be amazed at the value that is added to your conversations.
- Jesus Christ was the ultimate isle crosser. He received the punishment of the government and became ugly himself to take on our own ugliness, so that we could receive forgiveness and renewal. Jesus was killed unjustly by the government and died for the people in the government.

#### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday New Life's Executive Director of CDC, Redd Sevilla, continues our series on sacramental living and the ways that God crossed the isle and we can find God in the ugly.

#### **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, how was politics viewed? As a force for good or bad or something to be ignored completely?  
Are you able to see politics as a gift from God – how so? Could you consider that God has a good purpose for government and politics?
3. Christ disciplined Matthew of the Roman government and Simon the Zealot who wanted to overthrow the government. How does this example speak of how Christians can affect politics and government?
4. What ugliness do you see in yourself that is also played out in politics today?
5. In what ways can Christians humbly bring hope when our government acts unjustly?