



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: The Deeply Formed Church

Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(NIV)

Sermon Outline:

When we think about the world we live in, it can be compared to the image of a blizzard. Whether or not you know it, we are in the midst of a blizzard – not being able to see, of us losing our way. We are in an environment in our society which is disorienting.

We are in a CPR blizzard:

Covid-19

Political Idolatry

Racial Hostility

We are all trying to survive in these blizzards and the smaller blizzards in our daily lives, trying to hold so many things together. The question is how do we remain tethered to God? God is the one who keeps us anchored and tethered in the midst of a blizzard. Our way of life is to be our rope, and we are also called to be the rope for a world that is lost in a blizzard.

What type of church is God called us to be? In today's scripture Peter has some words for us on the type of church we are to be:

- Chosen people: God chose you. You didn't choose God.
- Royal priesthood: If you belong to Jesus you belong to this priesthood.
- Holy nation: Operate by a different constitution, allegiance to Jesus Christ.
- Special possession: We are to be a peculiar and unique people who confound the world.

New Life Fellowship's 5Ms:

We need to slow down to catch up to God.

Monastic Value

Jesus wants to transform every aspect of our lives especially our inner life.

eMotional Health

The Gospel is powerful enough to create a new family.

Multiracial Reconciliation

Our bodies must be integrated into, not separated from, our spirituality.

Marriage to Christ

It's better to be in God for the world than to be in the world for God.

Missional Presence

Jesus Christ is our good news and is making a new family. New Life Fellowship's goal is not diversity, our goal is love, solidarity, and opening ourselves up to those who are different from us.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, leads us on Vision Sunday and The Deeply Formed Church. Pastor Rich reminds us who we are to be as a community and what God has called us to in this moment.

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, did you grow up in a home where you experienced blizzards, whether big or small? Did you have an anchor to keep you tethered in your life to help you through these seasons of blizzards in your life? Or did you feel as though you were constantly caught in a whirlwind without an anchor? How does your experience growing up inform the way that are able to remain tethered to God today?
3. God is our rope. He is the one who keeps us anchored and tethered in the midst of a blizzard. The invitation for us to be that rope to others - for a world that is lost in a blizzard. Do you know of someone who is struggling and suffering in their own blizzard? How can you find time this week to be a rope to this person, offering them the love of Christ?
4. How do you feel when you read the words above that Peter has for us? Are you able to see yourself the way that God sees you? Or do you have a difficult time acknowledging the words Peter is speaking? Find time this week to journal about this and offer your thoughts and feelings up to God.
5. Of the 5Ms listed above, is there one that stands out to you more than the others? Do you need to begin living more contemplatively? Do you need to start paying attention to those things beneath the surface? Is it time for you to open yourself up to those who are different than you? Do you need to work on how to cultivate a life of singleness or marriage? Maybe you need to look for ways to be more missional and outward facing? Offer this up to God this week asking for wisdom and guidance on where He is leading you.