

What Are We Doing Here?

Part 7



Subversive Living

Introduction

(Blank) is in the eye of the beholder. Not preaching relativism. Does “subversion” work in that blank? American revolution was sedition by subversion. To us, heros. To the Brits at the time, terrorists, radicals, fundamentalists.

Subvert, turn from below. Can be deliberate, can be accidental. When talking about subversion, also talking about influence. Others influence you, you influence others. Parents and kids. People influence people. Greg Laurie - “The way God reaches people is through people.”

Been talking about how the church is a body, Jesus’ body of hands, feet, arms, etc. We aren’t the only body in this town. Not speaking only of churches. Bars, politics, sports, college, government. If we are the body of Jesus walking around Forest Grove, if you are the body of Jesus walking around Forest Grove, then we/you will be subversive, influential, in some way.

Ingression

A healthy, well balanced, and active church will be subversive, influential. If not, the only alternative is to be subverted, ineffective, influenced.

Inspiration

Series review. This is both a “what are we” and a “doing here” study.

[2] Talked about the gospel that qualifies us all for being a part/member of a church.

[3] Talked about what the church is; a body. An interconnected and interdependent collection of people who embody Jesus on earth.

[4] Spent two weeks talking about doctrine, the die-fors and divide-fors as shown in scripture.

[5] Spent two weeks talking about leadersheep and membersheep.

Ingression

Today we’re going to talk about subversive living; the normal operating mode for Jesus’ church. Also close series.

Subversive Church

Instruction

[6] Acts 2:40-47 Influence

40-41 There are those who will receive this message, and those who won’t. Doesn’t mean you don’t deliver it. Cultural and immediate context are relevant.

42-43 Body life and result; influence.

44-45 Interconnected and interdependent.

46-47 Body life and result; influence.

[7] Acts 3 - 4 Naturally subversive because of Jesus.

Acts 3 - 4:12 Summary. Peter heals a man, results in opportunity to preach Jesus, results in arrest. Actions of church leaders resulted in desire by establishment for dispersal of followers.

4:13-22 Fear of subversion.

4:23-37. Result, prayer and community.

[8] Acts 6-8 Give overview. More prayer and more community resulted in persecution and spreading of the church, not destruction.

[9] Acts 9:31 Beautiful little nugget verse. Persecution results in this. Shouldn’t fear it. Shouldn’t go looking for it either.

[10] Acts 10-11 Gentiles brought in. Cultural boundaries broken, unity in one truth. Diversity of expression is one thing. The issue is the thing being expressed. Worship at church in London. Dad's experience in Kenya.

[11] Acts 11:27-30 Cross-cultural, one-body support.

[12] Acts 13:42-52 Also brings division in a community. Repeated. Not concerned with buying the world a Coke and singing in harmony. Concerned with Jesus.

[13] Acts 16:16-24 Demon possessed woman freed, challenge economy and culture. Not their goal, but a side effect. Welsh Revival, alcohol sellers put out of business. Subversion, influence.

[14] Acts 17:5-9 turned the world upside down. Actually right side up. Subversion, influence.

[15] Acts 19

19:8-10 Miracles only get you so far. It's the ongoing teaching of the word and raising up disciples that is God's plan/command.

19:18-20 Miracles don't hurt! Really serve as a jump-start, a spark, not the driving force. Subversion, influence.

19:23-28, 35-41 A riot! Subversives!

Quite the range! From radical multiplication and having favor with all the people to being accused of turning the world upside down and inciting riots. Which one of these is normal? Which one is the goal? Neither of them really. The norm, the goal is to be an active and healthy body of Jesus. The results vary depending on cultural context. Regardless, it is going to be subversive and influential in some way.

Interconnection

It's interesting to me that we don't have a record of average church life over the course of years. We have snapshots of how they began, usually very intense and graphic. We have letters of correction and encouragement. But we don't really know who the church looked or functioned in their communities on any given day. We do have some report cards from Jesus Himself that tell us how some churches looked 40-60 years after their founding. It would appear that many of them were themselves subverted.

Subverted Churches

[16] Revelation 2:2-5 Ephesus, too holy

[17] Revelation 2:13-16 Pergamos, too compromising

[18] Revelation 3:1-4 Sardis, too famous church

[19] Revelation 3:15-20 Laodicea, too cool church

Imploration

What does it take to be a subversive church, to be a body that influences other bodies?

Overview of past six weeks.

saved,

being a interconnected and interdependent body,

know and live doctrine,

leadership and members doing their stuff,

engaging the culture and not waiting for it to engage you.

Where are the people of Forest Grove? Everywhere! Cafe Montecassino, Maggies, BJs, The Friendly Vine, Urban Decanter, bars, pool hall, sports teams, theater, neighborhood, campus, need I go on?

Church, what are we doing here? What are you/I doing here? FG needs Jesus. Let's give Him to them.