

Being God's People In Today's World



Overview

- Week 1 Establish our response to God's plan for humanity
- Week 2 Examine NT snapshots of offering grace and love to others
- Week 3 Examine contemporary case studies to be faithful to God's plan and live with grace and love to others

Aim for this class series:

To help OC engage a turbulent culture with faithfulness and grace.

Aim for today:

To establish our response to the will of God.

A night-time photograph of the Nashville skyline, featuring several illuminated skyscrapers and buildings. The lights from the buildings and streetlights are reflected in a body of water in the foreground. The sky is a deep blue, and the overall scene is vibrant and modern.

Being God's People In Today's World

Faithful to His Will

Turbulence in the World Today

Outrage vs. Persuasion, lack of civility

Red vs. Blue Polarization

Violence in our cities (i.e. Chicago, Nashville)

Mass shootings

Sexual abuse / violence

Sexual scandals in leadership of

Protestant/Catholic churches

Other examples?

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

How does God communicate His plan for humanity?

Creation

Prophets

Scripture

Other ways?

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

How do we carefully discern God's intent?

Communal discernment by the church

History of the church

Holy Spirit

Other ways?

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Just as God reigns in his Kingdom,
we must acknowledge his will is sovereign.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

We should expect God's will to make his holy people look different than the world.

John 17:14-16 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

We should expect God's will to make his holy people look different than the world.

Colossians 3:8-10, 12

But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed ...

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

We should expect God's will to make his holy people look different than the world.

Colossians 3:8-10, 12

in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

God's will should shape the church. We must be careful that discernment does not abandon God's truth.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

The church has these difficult tasks:

Listening for the will of God

Discerning how to pragmatically take action

Repenting when we fall short

Being thankful to be called God's people

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Our Confessions

Everything that exists was designed and **created** by God to be cared for and enjoyed. God has a plan for what he has created and will accomplish God's purposes in the end.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Our Confessions

Humans are created in the image of God so that we can have a personal and communal relationship with God. This image gives dignity and enables us to love. It also sets us above and makes us responsible for the non-human creation.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Our Confessions

The history of **sin**, death, evil, and pain were begun by rebellion against God and can only be undone by the justice of God.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Our Confessions

Though God is one, God is presented in three persons (Father, Son and Spirit)—**the Trinity.**

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Our Confessions

The Son, **Jesus Christ**, is completely God and became a complete human being. His life revealed God to us. His death satisfied the justice of God for the original rebellion and the evil that followed. His resurrection overcame the power of death and gave us life with God after death.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Our Confessions

The **Holy Spirit** is completely God and does the work of the Father and Son. The Spirit teaches, gives gifts, and transforms us back into God's image.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Our Confessions

Jesus will return to finally overthrow evil and death forever and to set up a **new heaven and a new earth** where we can be with Jesus forever. God will rule over everything.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

How have you seen Otter Creek be faithful to the will of God in the past?

What are the best ways we can discern the will of God as we move into the future life of our congregation?

What should we do when it is difficult to discern the will of God in our lives or in the life of our congregation?

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Summary

- Turbulence and brokenness seem to be everywhere in the world today.
- The will of God is sovereign.
- As God's people we must remain faithful.
- We are to listen to the will of God, and let God transform us into the image he intended.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Summary

- We have responsibility to be God's witness in today's world.
- Discerning the will of God is best done in community with other believers.

Responding Faithfully to the Will of God

Homework

- The Samaritan Woman at the Well, John 4:1-26
- The Woman Caught in Adultery, John 7:53-8:11
- Jerusalem Council, Acts 15:1-6, 22-29
- Paul in Athens, Acts 17:16-23

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