

Radiant Church, September 3, 2017
Mike Rydman

Radiant Basics, Part 2

Psalm 34:5 those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed

We talk a lot about the first part of this little verse: “We are radiant”
But we don’t necessarily talk about the second part: “Never be ashamed”

“Ashamed” in this case” means “we will never be disappointed” if/when we look to Jesus

Each of us has a Gospel Story...but those stories come in different varieties:

Creation: In what do we find our identity or sense of purpose and significance?

Fall: What or who is the fundamental problem they blame for the things that are broken in our lives?

Redemption: What or whom are we looking to as our savior to rescue or deliver us?

New Creation: What does transformation look like and what is our ultimate hope for the future?

In response to this gospel, we say that Radiant Church is a family of servant missionaries learning to be and make disciples

But what is your reason for church?
Why do any of us even think it’s important?
What do we each think will bring the redemption we want?

We want what we think we want, as logical or illogical as that may be.
But here’s a truth about all of us - We want what we want, but we don’t want it to require much of us - we don’t want it to change our lives, we only want it to make our lives better.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me.

To be a Christian means to be a Christ-follower

Matthew 4:18-22 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea,

for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Both sets of brothers immediately saw something, someone worth more to them than fishing, their livelihoods, and even their human relationships!

Their priorities were changed, because they wanted their life's priorities to be changed

They wanted to be in community with Jesus. So do we.

They had community with Jesus, face to face

We also have community with Jesus, by His Spirit, in community with each other

Our church will only be functioning as the Church if we are all chasing a growing relationship with Jesus

We believe that the gospel changes how we live. Living a changed life does not save us; instead, living differently is a result of being made new image-bearers of Jesus, having the Holy Spirit at work in us, and as the result of faith in Jesus.

What does this look like, as the church? How do we follow Jesus? How do we encourage each other to follow Jesus?

We allow the Holy Spirit to change our minds about what we think is important:

- We believe we are to be baptized, to show the world our solidarity with Jesus, and with His Church
- We believe as God's family, believers should be organized into local churches according to the plan laid out in the Bible
- We believe it is essential that all of us read our bibles, to know and love Jesus; to believe He is the hero and the solution to our gospel story
- We believe we each need to take primary responsibility for the development of our own hearts, as we eagerly await the return of Jesus

- We believe our families are to imitate the equality, the fellowship, complementary roles, and order that is seen in the Trinity. Our marriages and families are to be pictures of what God is like
- Since we are members of God's family, believers are obligated to personally care for the needs of one another - both physically and spiritually. We learn to do this specifically in our gospel communities, and more generally in our church
- We believe that since we are missionaries and servants, believers are to show people outside the church who Jesus is by loving them, serving them, and sharing the gospel with those who don't know Jesus.
- We believe as Jesus-followers we need to leverage everything God has given us to further the proclamation of the gospel message, to make disciples of us and others. This means leveraging our time, our energies and our resources

Let's stop for a moment and talk about "making the most of the resources God has given us..."

David Obilbee

- We believe that Elders should set the example for the congregation. Therefore we, your elders commit to the following.
 1. The Elders at Radiant Church Juneau commit to care for the congregation willingly, not grudgingly, not for what we will get out of it, but because we are eager to serve God. (I Peter 5:1-3)
 2. The Elders at Radiant Church Juneau commit to teaching the complete Gospel to the congregation as it was entrusted to us. (Acts 20:25-32).
 3. The Elders at Radiant Church Juneau commit to protecting the congregation by prayer and servant leadership. (Acts 20:25-32). We commit to praying for the congregation regularly including when they are sick. (James 5:14)
 4. The Elders at Radiant Church Juneau commit to living a life that is consistent with the gospel - above reproach, faithful to our spouse,

self-controlled, wise with a good reputation. We look forward to sharing life with all of you and sharing our homes and lives with those that don't yet know Jesus. We embrace a devout and disciplined life, gentleness with everyone, and commit to raising our own children well, and managing our own households well. (Titus 1, I Timothy 3).

5. The Elders commit to not appointing other Elders that are new in their faith or have poor reputations with people in or outside the church. (I Timothy 3)

Current Elders at Radiant Church Juneau - *Mike Rydman, David Ogilbee and Steven Williams*

The elders and deacons of Radiant Church Juneau are “all in”

We want you to be all in as well. But we each have to know what that means; what it means to be a fully committed and fully functional part of our church:

1. Commit to live my whole life under the lordship of Jesus Christ, carefully stewarding everything that He has given me and using it for His glory as instructed in the Bible, including my time, body, sexuality, gifts and talents, thoughts, emotions, relationships, finances and possessions.
2. I commit to cultivating a close relationship with Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, and learning from my fellow believers in Radiant Church Juneau.
3. I commit to following the elders/pastors at Radiant Church Juneau and to respect deacons and gospel community leaders that the elders appoint for the sake of order and making disciples in the congregation.
4. I commit to love and nurture my family as laid out in the Bible. If I am married I will honor my marriage vows and sacrificially love my spouse. If I am a husband I will humbly lead my family. If I am a wife I will respect and follow my husband as he follows Jesus. If I have children I will bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If I am single I will live with undivided devotion to the Lord with all purity
5. I commit to form and cultivate relationships with other believers in Radiant Church Juneau through participating in a gospel community so that we can help each other to walk with Jesus and sacrificially love

each other in the ways laid out in the Bible. Because deep relationships are very difficult to form on Sunday mornings alone I commit to regular interaction with other believers throughout the week. I will follow the biblical procedures of confronting those who have sinned against me, and will submit myself to biblical correction if needed (Matthew 18)

6. I commit to participate in the mission of Radiant Church Juneau of making disciples who make disciples. I will use my spiritual gifts, time, and resources to further this mission. I will give financially to Radiant Church Juneau regularly, sacrificially, and cheerfully.
7. Since the mission of Radiant Church Juneau is done in a decentralized way, I commit to specifically participating in any mission endeavor my GC believes God is sending them to show and share the gospel in light of my Gospel identities of family, servant, and missionary.

How we each participate in the life and ministry of our church is a clear indication of what each of us believes the gospel to be.

So what is the gospel that Radiant Church believes?

Creation: God made everything good in the beginning, and created us to know Him and love Him forever.

Fall: we responded by rebellion. Every generation since the first man and women have repeated this rebellion. This rebellion, a refusal to acknowledge God as the rightful ruler of all, separates us from God.

Redemption: God, instead of immediately judging us for our sin, He extends His offer of forgiveness and reconciliation to everyone through the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus. The apostles called this offer of grace, the gospel or good news.

New Creation: Those who hear the gospel and believe in Jesus to be their righteousness, and not in their own good works, are forgiven of their rebellion against God, given eternal life, adopted into God's family called the church, made new creations, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit so we can be His representatives. When Jesus comes back, those who believe in Him will get to spend eternity with Him in His New Heavens and New Earth.

We acknowledge this gospel, Creation, Fall, Redemption and New Creation every time we go together to the communion table...

