

Loving Jesus
Hope Chapel Honolulu
Titus 3:4-7

“But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”
(Titus 3:4-7, NIV)

Introduction

We're going to take a few weeks to talk about something that will become even more important as we move to our new location: church membership. But before we talk about belonging to a church, we have to begin with belonging to Christ. A life of faith in Christ begins with loving Christ and acknowledging Him as LORD of your life and all creation by: *a) trusting in Him alone for salvation, forgiveness and hope, b) surrendering your days and nights to His plans for you, and c) telling others of the Good News of hope and peace as “fishers of men.”* Let's look closely at what this means.

1. Choose to love Christ as your Lord and Savior.

- a) Trust in Christ alone for forgiveness and salvation. (Acts 4:12)
- b) Put your hope in Christ alone. (Ephesians 1:3-12)

2. Live for Christ everyday, everywhere.

- a) Live by faith in the Son of God. (Galatians 2:20-21)
- b) Surrender your days and nights to His plans for you. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

3. Let Christ make you into a "fisher of men."

- a) Don't be ashamed of the Gospel. (Romans 1:16-25)
- b) Be prepared to answer questions about your faith in Christ. (1Peter 3:8-16)

Conclusion

Unlike club membership which is usually about personal benefit first, church membership should first and foremost be about learning to love God and others, with our personal reward sometimes deferred until much later. While some believe that expecting regular church attendance is legalistic or that church membership is not biblical, or that church exists primarily to satisfy our needs, active membership in a local church that equips, empowers and encourages you to live a life of faith is an essential part of becoming a disciple of Christ.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

1. Which of these three points of loving Christ come easiest and most difficult for you?
2. What could you do this week to grow in your love for Jesus Christ?
3. What was the one thing that the Word and Spirit of God said to you from this message?

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