

The Transformation Principle

Show Up, Pt. 6

John 13:31-35

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March 21, 2021



I. INTRODUCTION

a. If you have a Bible, open It to the Gospel of John - chapter 13.

- i. As you know, we have been in a sermon series called SHOW UP for the purpose of preparing for this moment.
 - The moment where we are back together, In-person, after a long-winter of gathering together online.
 - And In this sermon series, we looked to the Scriptures to learn that God has designed the church and he has designed our souls to need to be with one another physically.
 1. That church Is not about a worship service, Its not about music and preaching, etc...
 2. But rather It Is us, the people of God, being together, underneath the Word of God, worshiping and encouraging one another and building each other up as we wait for Christ to return.
 3. Showing up physically and relationally In one another's lives.

b. Today, we are going to wrap up this series by studying a Scripture in John 13 and I am titling today's message - THE TRANSFORMATION PRINCIPLE.

- i. Because, when we think about church, I think all of us have a certain set of desires and expectations for the church we join.
 - We desire community, friends, to be fed spiritually, etc...



- But I also believe that one thing we all desire to experience and witness through our church is transformation.
 1. That through my church, I would be led to a better life, a more faithful life, a more joyful life.
 2. A life where my love for God grows.
 3. A life where my sin and bad habits melt away.
 4. A life where I am growing in health and maturity.
 5. Amen? We all desire to have that kind of experience with God where we see change and transformation in our lives.
 6. And we all desire to witness that kind of transformation in others...
- ii. **And the question is, how do we see that kind of transformation happen in our church?**
 - And today, we are going to learn from the Scriptures what I am going to call the TRANSFORMATION PRINCIPLE.
 1. We are going to learn how we as a church don't have the power to transform people - that's a work of the Holy Spirit.
 2. But we as a church do have the power to create an environment where true transformation can occur in people's lives or we can create an environment that will actually impede transformation from occurring in people's lives.



II. JOHN 13:31-35

a. That leads us to our text today (thank you Kathy and Steve for reading it for us).

- i. Let me setup the context here...
 - In John 13, Jesus and the disciples are at the Last Supper.
 1. Meaning that Jesus is just hours away from being arrested and taken to the cross.
 2. And he is preparing his disciples for what is about to happen.

b. **Read John 13:31-35 w/commentary.**

- [v.34 - Giving first Instructions here on church life.]
- i. So, Jesus' first command to the church is that we love one another just as He has loved us.
 - And this, right here, is the transformation principle.
 1. Transformation in the church occurs when we love one another in the way that Jesus has loved us.
 2. When this kind of love is present within the church. When each of us are seeking to love one another in this way, it creates a climate within our church where transformation will happen.



- But, what does that even practically look like?
 1. So, we need to dig into our text even deeper and look at what it actually means to love one another in this way and what it actually takes to implement the transformation principle in our church.
 - ii. So, today, I want to give us three keys from our passage to living out the transformation principle in our church.
 - And the first key is obvious...

III. KEY #1 – WE MUST LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS CHRIST HAS LOVED THE US.

a. So, let's put a definition on that. How has Christ loved us?

- i. Well, the context of our passage today will be helpful in forming a definition.
 - If you look at the verses that immediately precede our passage today, Jesus has this odd conversation with his disciples about the fact that one of them would actually betray Jesus.
 1. And Jesus reveals that it is Judas who will betray him.
 2. And Judas in that moment leaves.
 3. And it's on the heels of this that Jesus tells his disciples to love one another in the way that He has loved them.
 4. It's almost setup where the betrayal of Judas is compared to the steadfastness of Jesus.



5. To love one another as Jesus has loved us means to stay and not leave...no matter what.
- And then immediately after the disciples finish the Supper, Jesus is arrested and taken to the cross.
 1. And so, in direct contrast to Judas who leaves, we have Jesus who is giving his own life for those He loves.
 2. We have Jesus who stays even at great cost to Himself.
- ii. **And so, I think a good definition of what it means to love one another in the way that Jesus has loved us is this...**
- That we show up for one another and we don't leave, even if it costs us something.
 1. That's how Jesus has loved you.
 2. He has shown up in your life.
 3. He has called you to Himself.
 4. He has invited you into his family.
 5. And He will never leave you.
 6. There is nothing you can do that will cause him to give up on you.
 7. Even if it costs Him something.
 - And I firmly believe that transformation occurs in a person's life when they experience love like this.
 1. I believe that when we love one another in the church in this way...we make it easier to believe in a God who loves us in this way as well.
 2. That's how important it is to show up for one another.



b. But we need to talk about what it means to actually show up for one another.

- i. Because ever since we were newborns...our hearts have longed for people to display their love for us by showing up.
 - Not just through words. Not just through affection.
 - But by consistently showing up for us.
 - Being there. Being interested in us. Showing that we matter to them.
- ii. **Some of you grew up with families who didn't show up.**
 - And there may be no greater pain or trauma than that.
 - Because God has built our souls to need people to show up for us.
- iii. **And so, think about this Grace Hill, our Savior, Jesus Christ, displays his love for us by showing up.**
 - He didn't just beam down words for us to follow from heaven.
 1. He doesn't expect us to find our way to Him blind or risk punishment.
 - No, he showed up! Physically. Incarnationally. He took on a human body. He came into our world, he experienced our weaknesses, he experienced our brokenness.
 1. And He gave His life for us so that we can be with Him for all of eternity.
 - The essence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is that we have a God who shows his love for us by showing up physically to save us.



- iv. **And Grace Hill, this is so important, we love one another in the way that Jesus has loved us by showing up for one another physically, incarnationally, consistently.**
- Or to put it differently, we cannot love one another in the way that Jesus has loved us from a distance, we cannot do it virtually, we cannot do it without regularly being together in-person.
 1. Can we love one another from a distance? Sure.
 2. We just can't love one another in the way that Jesus loved us from a distance.
 3. It requires consistent, embodied presence.
 4. It requires showing up on Sundays and showing up in each other's lives throughout the week.
- v. **You know, last Thursday I was with a group of guys and had the opportunity to share my story.**
- And one of the things that always fills me with overwhelming gratitude whenever I share my story is when I talk about my dad.
 1. My dad is not the most talkative person out there.
 2. He's mostly quiet.
 - But when I was in second grade my dad took me to McDonalds and he told me that we were going to start going to breakfast once a week.
 1. There was no agenda.
 2. No study.
 3. Just consistent, presence.



- And he took me out to breakfast once a week from second grade until I moved out of the house....for 13+ years.
 1. He showed up, every single time.
 2. In-person.
 3. I'm sure there were days he was busy...or days where I had made him mad...or days where it wasn't convenient...
 4. But he showed up.
- vi. And this is what God envisions for his church...that we would show up for one another...
 - Consistently. Even when it is not convenient.

c. And as your pastor, I want to warn all of us of the temptation that we are all going to face as we begin to emerge out of this pandemic.

- i. We live in a culture that values individualism, we live in a culture that says that preferences are primary, we live in a culture that rejects anything that is inconvenient.
 - And so, one of the ways that our culture has influenced the way we view church is that we can begin to view the church as something that provides a service to me as an individual.
 1. And if all the church is, is a service for me, then doing virtual church is more than sufficient.
 2. Showing up every once in a while, is fine.
 3. Picking and choosing churches based off what they offer makes sense.
 4. But that's not the church. The church is a family that we're called to show up for.



- And every one of us...even me a as pastor...has to guard ourselves from our culture sabotaging what the church really is supposed to be!
- ii. **And here is the danger of our current moment...**
- We are emerging from over a year of needing to be physically distant from the church because of a global pandemic.
 1. And a year is more than enough time to create new habits and to further influence our worldview about what the church really is.
 2. But, family, God's way of doing church has not changed.
 3. What it means to love one another in the way that Christ has loved us has not changed.
 - We are still called to show up for one another, physically and consistently.
- iii. **And I believe that over the next several months as we come out of this pandemic (Lord willing) we are going to have to do some hard work to get back to the rhythm of showing up for one another.**
- Transformation doesn't happen in people's lives unless we consistently show up.
 - So, the first key to implementing this transformation principle is we need to love one another like Jesus has loved us...and he showed up for us...
 - And the second key is...



IV. KEY #2 - WE MUST BE SELF-AWARE OF HOW WE WILL BE TEMPTED LEAVE.

- Jesus loved us by showing up and not leaving...

a. Let's keep reading in John 13....v.36-38.

- i. See, Peter here thought that he had a kind of love for Jesus where he would be able to even die for him.
 - But Jesus tells him to his face that that's not true.
 - And, obviously, as we continue to read, we do see that Peter will eventually leave Jesus when He is arrested.
- ii. See, although Peter thought that he loved Jesus a certain way, there were obstacles to his love that he was not aware of.
 - And he got put into a situation where he actually instinctually left Jesus.

b. And when we think about showing up for one another and loving each other in the way that Jesus has loved us, I think we also need to examine ourselves to discover where we will be tempted to leave each other.

- i. Because just like Peter, that temptation to not show up may surprise us when it comes...
 - See, when we are first introduced to Peter in the Gospels, His name is Simon the Zealot.



1. Peter was a part of a faction of Jews who actively tried to get the Jews to violently revolt against the Roman occupation of their land.
 2. Peter was Zealous. He was passionate about His people not being conquered.
- And so, when Jesus comes along proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is at hand and then calls Peter to follow Him, you have to understand that there is something in the back of Peter's head that is telling him that Jesus is going to be the one to take down the Roman empire.
 1. Even though Jesus never said he would do that...
 2. That's the worldview that Peter was immersed in.
 - So, later on in John 18, Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane. And a band of Roman Soldiers and Jewish Officials come with Judas to arrest Jesus.
 1. What does Peter do?
 2. He drew his sword and cut off the ear of one of the soldiers.
 3. Peter was a Zealot!
 - So, you can imagine how Peter felt when he saw Jesus allow them to arrest him. And how he felt as they beat him and mocked him.
 1. His worldview was coming apart.
 2. Peter didn't realize that when Jesus said he was going somewhere that Peter could not follow, that Jesus meant the cross.
 3. And so, as the Gospel pressed against Peter's worldview, he denied Jesus.



- ii. **Just like Peter, we are immersed in a culture and a worldview...**
 - We live in a culture that says if someone offends you, cut them out of your life.
 - If your personalities clash, don't be friends with them.
 - If someone disagrees with you, cancel them.
 - If something is inconvenient, don't go out of your way to do it.
 - If something doesn't meet your preference or standard, complain about it.
- iii. **We may not agree with these cultural values, but we're surrounded by it every single day.**

- And the Gospel is going to press against these worldviews.
- It's going to call us to a different way of living.
- It's going to call us to love one another as Jesus has loved us...to show up...and to never leave...even if it costs us something.
 1. Even when we don't want to.
 2. Even when it's inconvenient.
 3. Even when relationships are hard.

c. And listen, Grace Hill, it is when we push through these temptations to leave, these temptations to not show up...and we show up **anyway in one another's lives...**

- i. This is where life transformation happens for people.
 - This is where we make it easier for people to believe the Gospel.



- Because if God's people always show for up for one another....in a world where there is all kinds of reasons not to....
 - Then I can believe in a God who shows up for me too.
- ii. **Christ is looking to His body to express His love to one another.**
 - Can I say that again?
 - And that's where life transformation happens.
 - So, where might the Gospel be pressing up against your worldview, your preferences, your comfort zone...where might you be tempted to not show up for your family?
 1. Because God calls us to show up anyway.
 - iii. **So, Key #1 to this Life Transformation Principle = We need to love one another in the way that Jesus loves us.**
 - iv. **Key #2 = We need to be self-aware of how we will be tempted to leave.**

V. KEY #3 – WE MUST BE AWARE THAT OUR NEIGHBORS ARE WATCHING.

a. Did you notice v.35?

- i. Listen, those who don't know Christ are watching to see if what we preach matches how we live.
 - And Jesus is telling us right here that the world will know that we are a Gospel People if we love one another with a Gospel Love.



- ii. And if the church just becomes a place where we show up when we want to, we just consume, and we don't love one another like Christ loved us...our neighbors are not seeing anything different and unique than their normal experience with this world.
- And one of the easiest things we can do to demonstrate the gospel to our neighbors is by showing up...consistently.
- iii. You know, over the past few months my wife and I have been helping this single mom and her child.
- And my wife was on the phone with a CPS worker...and the CPS worker straight up asked my wife...hey, what is your angle? Like why are you doing this?
 1. Because she hadn't seen anyone do this.
 2. And my wife just simply replied to the worker...no one has ever shown up for this mom...and she needs someone to show up.
 3. And listen, to a world that does not know Jesus, that is alien, but it is beautiful.
 - And if the world witnessed a church that was more concerned about showing up for one another and their neighbors than anything else, the gospel would be on full display and could not be ignored.



b. And that's how we see life transformation not only for people inside the church but also for people outside the church.

- We love one another by showing up and never leaving, even if it costs us something.

VI. CONCLUSION & COMMUNION – THE TRANSFORMATION OF PETER

a. And Grace Hill, this is how God loves you.

- Even when you don't live this out.
 - Even when you do leave.
 - Even when we fail to show up for one another...
- i. God, in his grace and his mercy still shows up for us...his mercies are new every single morning.
- You could imagine the guilt and the shame that Peter felt for disowning Jesus at the cross.
 1. And no one would be surprised if that ended Peter's relationship with Jesus right there....because that's how the world works.
 2. But it didn't.
 - Just go to John 21 and what did Jesus do?
 1. He showed up again.
 2. And he forgave Peter.
 3. And he commissioned Peter to go lead the church as a transformed man.
 - Because life transformation happens when people are loved like Jesus loves.
 1. And Peter wasn't the same.



- ii. And this is what Jesus calls his church to do as well....to show up.
- b. And so, today, I would like us to end our time reflecting on the fact that Jesus is a God who shows up and doesn't leave us.**
 - i. And our proof is the cross.
 - Jesus was willing to allow his body to be broken and his blood to be shed so that He could be in relationship with you.
 - 1. And he did that already knowing your sin, already knowing the ways you would disown him like Peter did, already knowing all your flaws.
 - He still shows up.
 - ii. And one of the things that He told his disciples to do that night at the last supper...is to feast together regularly...and when you do...
 - To take bread a break it...and let that help you remember how Jesus allowed his body to be broken on your behalf.
 - To take wine and drink it...and as to drink it to let that help you remember how Jesus' blood was shed to cleanse you from your sins.
 - iii. Grace Hill, we're finally back together which means we can finally have this feast together again...
 - Where we take our cracker and a little bit of juice...
 - And we remember how Jesus has loved us, has shown up for us, and will never leave us.



c. So, I am going to pray for us right now....

- i. When I'm done...I want you to take a minute or two as the band plays...to remember what Christ has done to love and show up for you...
 - And whenever you're ready, you can eat your cracker and drink your juice and we'll close our time in song.

VII. PRAY

