

Building an Unsinkable Ship The Member-Ship

Genesis 6:17 – 22

17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. **18** But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark-- you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. **19** You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. **20** Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. **21** You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." **22** Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Review from last week:

Noah entered into last weeks ship, the “Partner-Ship.”

Churches are ship-wrecked by _____.

Passengers that are _____ not _____ and forget that it's a
_____ not a _____.

People who are on board a ship or in a church and who own the ship and it's mission and who understand what the role is and they're not surprised that role is inconvenient are called _____.

Today's Message:

We will focus on the commitment of the crew on the “_____ -ship.”

Ships and women, if not given proper love and attention, leak. And if you don't stop the leaking she sinks, she's going down and she takes you down with her

Church is also referred to as _____.

Ephesians 5:25-30

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **28** In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** After all, people have never hated their own bodies, but they feed and care for them, just as Christ does the church-- **30** for we are members of his body.

The Member-Ship is about Covenant Relationships

Covenant: A solemn, formal and _____ agreement between two parties.

As individuals we are bond to Christ in _____.

What bonds us together as a body, as a church?

Rescue ships need boats and rescue boats need ships. A person is not rescued until they are safe at home. To get them home, you need a ship.

The Legacy is not a church with small groups, The Legacy is a church of small groups. We run a rescue operation and go out with our groups, but our groups need the ship of the Legacy.

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12** to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. **14** Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. **15** Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the head, that is, Christ. **16** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

We are supposed to be _____ = closely fitted, framed together

.... By every _____ ligament

Genesis 6:18 “establish covenant and you will enter the ark.”

Noah’s Ark gives us the first crew joining.

Signing the Covenant/Manifest:

When you join the crew, your name is written in the ship's _____. A ship at sea is an exclusive entity. You are either in or out of the boat. If you are both in and out, your ship is still at the dock and not fulfilling its mission, or it's sunk and you are snorkeling, (still not fulfilling its mission).

The Legacy Church is a _____ out at sea.

A. The church membership is the manifest which is necessary so that we know if someone falls _____

The parable of the lost sheep tells us that _____ mattered to God. When you save people, you have to count them so that you can get them home.

Do we want a mega church? No, we want to _____
Joining the church is like joining a ship for a voyage. It takes commitment. You must count the cost. Life in the boat is about shoveling and saving people's lives. It's a lot of work! But it's a good work.

"The church is like Noah's Ark if it wasn't for the storm outside we wouldn't stand the stench inside."

B. Leaders also want to know who's on board so that they know who's _____
_____.

So How Are We Doing?

Trends among Christians as noted by Barner Research Group:

1. The church is becoming less theologically literate. Well-known truths are becoming little-known _____.
 - a. The majority of people recognize Easter as a religious holiday, but only a minority of people recognize it as having to do with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - b. Few adults believe that faith is to be the focal point of their lives and integrated with every area of their lives.
 - c. The Holy Spirit is a symbol of God's power but not a living entity.
2. Christians are becoming and less _____ oriented.

- a. Christians are becoming more and more isolated from non-Christians. The moral chasm is becoming wider and wider as we near the end and it will get harder and harder to bridge the gap, so people then opt out of outreach.
3. Christians are less interested in _____ and are more interested in solutions for life problems. They want the goods without having to work for it.
4. Christians are more interested in _____ than they have ever been before. Could it be because people are trying to bring “value” to their faith?
5. The insistence of _____ is winning over the church. The result is a church that is more tolerant of sin. Increased leniency is made possible by the very limited accountability that occurs in the body of Christ. At the Legacy we are not afraid to offend you if it means saving you and helping you.

If you like _____ you haven't had it yet.

According to the survey, there are fewer and fewer issues they feel we should be dogmatic about. The idea of love has come to mean the absence of conflict but the Bible says the opposite. The church (according to the survey) believes there aren't moral absolutes that are worth fighting for and that there aren't moral absolutes dictated by scriptures.

6. The influence on culture in individual lives is largely _____. We want a faith that doesn't cost us anything and the world sees right through it.