

Sunday Assembly Reflection

WRITTEN BY: Robin Russell

REFLECTION: Jim clarified the role of the church and its mission on Sunday, saying we are not here for ourselves; we're here to bless others. Jim explained that for followers of Jesus, church life is not voluntary or optional. Rather, as believers, we wake up and find ourselves part of an involuntary organism created by the Holy Spirit both for our good (to equip and mature us) and for the well-being of others. "The church is not a cute little someone God is dating one or two weekends a month," Jim said. Instead, it is the bride of Christ that reflects the covenantal love of God and is the very body of Christ. Without the church, we are just dead body parts, dismembered from Jesus. We lose reality and begin to believe the craziness we tell ourselves apart from the reality check of the Holy Spirit's work.

I confess that sometimes I am more conflicted by relationships within the church where my expectations are higher than they are for people outside the body. I am tempted to want to "empty the trash" rather than seek the treasure that also exists in the body. Remembering that I am right where God wants me to be helps motivate me to stay committed and let God refine my thinking, emotions and actions to better conform to how things are done in heaven. And more often than not, it also compels me to seek forgiveness, knowing the richness of God's grace over my own life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS: *Please pick one of the questions below to answer in your small groups; more if you have time. Be sure to pray for each other at the end.*

- How does the covenantal love of God help you overcome sin and live a life worthy of the calling?
- In what relationships have you seen God bring unity despite not seeing eye-to-eye on everything? How can you help make that happen?

Sunday Assembly Reflection is written by Lake Highlands Church members for Lifegroups and individuals to receive more from the spoken Sunday Assembly message through reflection and quick discussion. It is published on the first three Monday's of the month. If you are interested in knowing more about a Lifegroup or have a question about the reflection, please contact Donjalea Crane, donjalea@lakehighlandschurch.org or contact one of our Lifegroup leaders by going to lakehighlandschurch.org/Lifegroup-listings.

Lake Highlands Church Sunday Assembly Sermons are published weekly as a podcast. They are available on iTunes and lakehighlandschurch.org.