



Fully Known Sermon Discussion Notes

Opening Thought:

We all want to be known for something, and to some degree we are all image managers. The problem is when there is a gap between what we want to be known for and who we really are. When we have these gaps the easiest thing to do is cover up, hide or hold on to secrets. The truth is that none of us were designed to live that way.

How do you fill in the gaps between the person you project to others and who you really are? Do you give partial information, stretch the truth, or bring up your successes every chance you get?

Watch yourself this week and look for signs of image management

Scriptures:

James 5:16 (niv)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (niv)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Romans 14:1 (niv)

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters.

Romans 15:7 (niv)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 8:1 (niv)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (niv)

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you want to be known for?
2. How do you practice image management?
3. How can you be more transparent? How can you make your real self known to others?
4. Read James 5:16. Do you let anyone know about your struggles? Is there anyone who truly knows you and can accurately pray for you?
5. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. How can we encourage each other? How can we push each other to deal with the shortcomings we try to hide?
6. Read Galatians 6:1-3. What does it look like to be "gentle" with each other's shortcomings? How can we carry each other's burdens, those things that we shouldn't carry alone?
7. Read Romans 14:1 and 15:7. How can we do a better job of accepting people where they are and then helping them grow into who they need to be?

Comment: If we operate as the body of Christ, many times the body will heal itself both in the natural and spiritual. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 talks about how the body should function together with "equal concern", if "one part suffers, every part suffers", "if one part is honored every part rejoices with it"

This happens best in relationships formed in Community Groups.

Take the time to read all the scriptures.

Concluding Thought:

We all want to be known for something. Whether it's for being successful or influential or something else we see as impressive, we spend a lot of time and energy projecting an image of ourselves that we think will gain us acceptance from others. But this isn't who we really are, and if we aren't careful, we'll end up going through life without being fully known by anyone. And this will rob us of ever knowing true acceptance.

Bay Shore

Community Church

Upcoming Events: **August**

- 9th: New Series "Fugitive: what are you running from?"
Communion
- 21st: Pastor Danny on TBN; tentatively scheduled
- 27th: Senior Citizen's Lunch; 12 PM in the Bay Café
- 30th: Membership Class – Part 1

September

- 6th: Membership Class – Part 2
- 13th: Volunteer Experience
Pre-Marriage Class: 6-week class meeting at 10:10AM each Sunday morning
- 20th: Community Group Facilitators' Meeting: 10:10AM