

NO MORE FENCES: Embrace the Awkward

Pastor Daniel Olson

Text: 1 John 4:15-21

Your relationships with people, will reflect the relationship you believe you have with God .

A normal Christian life is a supernatural life.

You can confess Jesus as Lord and not know His love.

Our relationship with our Heavenly Father is the greenhouse for our love to grow to perfection.

Conviction is evidence of His Spirit at work in you.

When you have trouble loving someone it's never really about them.

When you feel fear, it's just an opportunity to grow.

People need to know that Jesus loves them.

The primary way God receives love from us is when we love others.

If Jesus died for them, I'm commanded to love them.

When we embrace the awkward, we're embracing Jesus.

Food for Thought for the week of May 29, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

1. Was there anything in particular from the sermon that encouraged you? Motivated you? Challenged you? What was it and why?

2. Dr. D.A. Carson from Trinity Theological Seminary in Chicago once said "...sometimes God chooses to bless us and make us people of integrity in the midst of abominable circumstances, rather than change our circumstances."

Can you think of an uncomfortable or awkward circumstance, that God put you in, that changed you for the better?

Can you think of a time when the Holy Spirit prompted you to do something out of the ordinary? Did your obedience pay off?

3. Do you sometimes feel "pressured" to see results in people's lives? Read 1 Corinthians 3:7, 15:58. How do these verses affect or change the way you view sharing Jesus with others, even when it doesn't go the way you expect to?

4. Do you see a pattern of reactions that you experience when God places you in uncomfortable situations regarding talking about Jesus? Is it fear of rejection? Not having the "right words?"

Read 1 Peter 3:14-16. What has worked best to equip you for those situations?

5. Who do you feel uncomfortable talking to about your faith? Does the Lord bring anyone to mind? Take some time to share and support each other in prayer.



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