

**Faith Milestone Celebration**

"How to Love Jesus"

Acts 2:42-47

**3 Practices that help us love Jesus:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to Jesus.

Acts 2:42-43

Intention without devotion turns the church into a family or high school reunion, where you talk about things you used to care about.

If we want to be devoted to Jesus when we gather, we need to be devoted to Jesus when we scatter.

2. Seek \_\_\_\_\_ with other Christians.

Acts 2:44-45

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. -Philippians 2:3-4

3. Read Swoboda's quote together: "If we adopt Paul's metaphor, I suspect it might reshape the way we engage [commit to] the church. Because if the church is a person- — a 2,000 year old person — we must love her as such. Old women move slower than we wish. She isn't as fast as the world. She's behind on the times. She isn't up to date. Which is okay. We don't need to keep the same time with the rest of the world [...] We are with a very old bride with a diversity of weird people. Christ loves this woman, warts and all. Can we?"

How can we overcome our own impatience and desire for the church to conform to our standards and expectations, and instead commit by loving and embracing her?

4. Read 1 John 4:19. What practical next steps do we need to incorporate in our lives to nurture love for Jesus and his people?

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Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



Practice doesn't make perfect when it comes to the spiritual life, but it forms you more into the one who is perfect.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ to his people.

Acts 2:46-47

"If we adopt Paul's metaphor, I suspect it might reshape the way we engage [commit to] the church. Because if the church is a person – a 2,000 year old person – we must love her as such. Old women move slower than we wish. She isn't as fast as the world. She's behind on the times. She isn't up-to-date. Which is okay. We don't need to keep the same time with the rest of the world [...] We are with a very old bride with a diversity of weird people. Christ loves this woman, warts and all. Can we?" -AJ Swoboda, *After Doubt*

We love, because he first loved us. -1 John 4:19

#### Resources:

- *After Doubt*, A.J. Swoboda
- *Habits of the Household*, Justin Whitmel Earley

#### Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What differentiates the life of someone who knows about Jesus and someone who loves Jesus?
3. Read Acts 2:42-43- How is the church gathered impacted by the church devoted to God's word and prayer when they're scattered?
4. Read Philippians 2:3-4. In what ways can we be intentional with ourselves, our groups, and our families to practice love, forgiveness, and selflessness towards others in our church community, even when it's challenging or inconvenient?