



WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Be Who God Made You to Be

by Tim Tripp

June 6th

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There is a lot of talk these days about “be who you are.” Culturally it has become a catch phrase meaning, “live the way you want to live.” In a free country, people are allowed to live how they want to live as long as it does not break the law. As a Jesus follower however, the phrase, “being who you are,” takes on a different meaning.

In First Corinthians chapter six, Paul addresses the issue of sexual immorality. In Corinth, the temple of Aphrodite was a symbol of pleasure, beauty and sensuality. The goddess’s temple was the place of employment for hundreds of temple prostitutes. Using and paying for their services was a primary source of income for the temple and the “priests and priestesses” who served there. As a result, Corinth had the reputation in the first century as a city of license and as a place for the freedom of sexual expression. Married or not, it was acceptable, even encouraged to support the temple by visiting one or more of those who served there. Paul told the Christians in Corinth that if a Jesus follower were to visit a prostitute, they would be taking the “members of Christ and uniting them with a prostitute,” (1 Co. 6:15). He instructs them to “flee sexual immorality” (v. 18), to “honor God with their bodies” (v. 20) and reminds them that, “you are not your own, you were bought with a price,” (vs. 19-20). In other words, just because one may engage in a culturally sanctioned activity, does not mean that activity is one in which God wants his followers to engage. What the individual wants is no longer the central factor in who they are, it is what God wants (“*you were bought with a price.*”)

As Christians we must remember that we are created beings. Our creator has given us great liberty to choose to live life the way we want or to lay down our will and live according to his. The catch is that we cannot have it both ways. We cannot say we follow him and still hold on to our will. We cannot say that we follow Jesus and engage in promiscuity as did some of the Corinthian Christians. We cannot say we follow him and treat people with arrogance and disrespect. We cannot say we follow him and refuse to help people in need. We could say in doing these things, “That is just who I am.” But we cannot say, “That is who God made me,” or “That is the reflection of my father.”

That is not to say that we will not make mistakes and stray from the path of God’s will at times. We all do. However, God made us to overcome our human wills and take on the will of Christ. He calls us to be better than we are.

For that to happen we must all be open to seeing where we fall short of being who God made us to be. We need fellow Christians who can lovingly point out where we must improve and be willing to part with anything within us that is not Jesus. Until a person is honest and open about who they are, they will not likely become who God created them to be, at least not authentically. We can pretend and fool most people but God always knows.

I appeal to you today to seek the higher calling. Do not settle for being who you are. Look higher. Seek to become what God made you to be. In that you will find transformation. Only in becoming what you were created to be will you find what you were created to do.

DIOS LE BENDIGA! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

Blessings to you my West Side Family!

Today is another day of life that God has given us! Another week to start, another year to live, because every day starts a new year since we were born. That means, another opportunity has been given us from the Lord to glorify his name. What does that mean? Well, the day we decided to obey the Lord, we made a promise to him that daily we will take our cross and follow him. We will do that because we understand that is our part. So, every day, I look for ways to glorify Him, even though I will fall short many times, I know His love will enrich my soul. I strive to not let Satan take away the joy of every day. God gives me opportunities daily to show his mercy. He provides exactly what I need to go and do what he wants.

My encouragement to you, my West Side Family, is to always look for opportunities to rejoice every day while doing God’s will!!! Blessings !!

Gathering Times

Sunday Morning 10 Am Worship
& Kids for Christ
ages 1yr-5th grade

WSYM meets 6:30 pm Wednesdays

Online Bible Study
Sunday 6:30pm
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Additional resources such as classes on Spritual
Formation and a series on John
available on westsidear.org

West Side News

Robyn Richardson will be recognized for 50 years of service with a party in his honor from 2-4pm, June 11th on the second floor at the Courthouse. All are invited to attend!

Wednesday Night Adult Class

Tim Tripp will be leading an In-Person Bible Study beginning June 9th at 6:30 pm in Room 3.

WS KIDS

**New classes will meet during the regularly
scheduled KFC time. beginning TODAY!!**

1-2 year olds - Nursery area with Beth Sorrells / Jenifer Hurt

3-4 year olds - Room 16 with Jamie Bates
Tami Robinson / Jen Wortham

5yr old Pre-K - Room 12 with Susan Taylor / Deanna Cole

K-1st grade - HW Studios Room with Chris & Elizabeth Ratliff

2nd & 3rd grade - Creator's Canvas room with Lisa Rentfro

4th & 5th grade - Museum room with Jessica Davis

**Thank you to all who volunteer to teach and help with our
WS KIDS! It takes a village!**

**Sign up for WS emails at
westsidear.org/subscribe**

Week of: 5-30-2021

Weekly Giving: \$ 12,628

Attendance

Weekly Budget:\$ 13,820

280

YTD Giving: \$ 298,217

YTD Budget: \$ 304,034

Family Illness and Recovery

Linda Butler is doing well following shoulder surgery. Please continue to pray for a complete and rapid recovery.

Betty Jo George remains hospitalized following a stroke. Please continue to keep Sonny and Betty Jo in your prayers as they each battle their own health issues at this time.

Krista Magness, great-niece of Trish Bailey continues to recover from surgery for breast cancer. Please keep her in your prayers for strength and healing and peace as she waits for the pathology report.

Sissy Duvall, sister of Patsy Parnell, is battling inoperable metastatic throat cancer. Please keep her in your prayers for healing.

Sofia Juarez received some bloodwork results this week that indicates cancer has returned. Please keep her in your prayers as she works with doctors to determine course of treatment.

Ongoing:
Bill & Eloise Irving
Amanda Williams
Sharon Johnson
Larry and Linda Harrell

Love. Share. Disciple.