

Series: Celebration	Reference: Various	Title: 10 Things in 10 Years	Date: 02.03.19
Website Writeup:			
10 minutes to speak about 10 things learned in 10 years which will continue to inform & define our future as a church!			

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Start the timer!

For those of you visiting, in light of celebrating 10 years as a church, I've promised to only do a 10 minute sermon, but I don't think anyone in this room is very confident I'll keep to it. My friend told me that as his pastor retired recently, they made a top 10 list about him at his final service. He also told me that his pastor is narcoleptic, and has even fallen asleep while preaching - so, be grateful I don't do that! But it made me to consider for today a top 10 list. I've got 10 minutes to talk about 10 things we've learned in 10 years which will continue to define our future as a church...here goes...

1. We've learned, **Prayer Changes Lives** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil. ²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through & through. May your whole spirit, soul & body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Prayer protects & forms us. We may be hard pressed on every side, but we're not crushed. Jesus walks with us in difficulty, carrying us onto completion. We've learned the question '*Can I pray for you right now?*' can change a life & we seek to pray for others. As we listen to the Holy Spirit doors open for ministry & God answers by healing & bringing life.

2. We've learned, **To Act Justly** Micah 6:8

⁸He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Everything's spiritual, people aren't political tools, or things to be defeated. Issues aren't the issue, hearts in need of Jesus are. We value people as God's creation & act justly in order that His just nature's revealed. How we treat others is important - Truth is always accompanied by loving care & action.

3. We've learned, **To Love Mercy** Micah 6:8

⁸He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

A safe welcoming space, understanding, compassion, love & gentility are vital. We invite people to come as they are & be transformed by the Spirit & Word of God. Jesus often healed souls & bodies then instructed, “Go & sin no more.” Healing & transformation at the core of ministry. We often belong before we believe, people marinate in Jesus leading to solid understanding of salvation & life transformation.

4. We’ve learned, **To Walk Humbly** Micah 6:8

⁸He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

The Gospel’s the great equalizer. We’re no better or worse than anyone else. **1 Peter 3:15-16...**

...in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness & respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

The Church proclaims Truth with humility & respect, understanding the issues of trauma, hurt, pride & honoring complex stories of individuals. We walk hand-in-hand leading people to Christ as we are led.

5. We’ve learned, **Mission is Central** Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them & said, “All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Mission will end, worship is forever. The church’s mission revealed in His last command is our first concern. We involve ourselves locally & cross-culturally in Christ’s ministry to the nations (all people groups). It’s not about us, it’s about Christ’s invitation of reconciliation with God to all peoples. We engage our community through local partnerships & globally through Sammy Zondervan who trains missionaries, the Halls pastoring in Morocco, work among Muslims in Indonesia & Muslim refugees in Syria & Lebanon.

6. We’ve learned, **Story Matters** 2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned & have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed & is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting & training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We hold *Scriptural Truth* tightly in one hand & *Preference* loosely in the other. We root ourselves in the Bible, the Story of a loving God pursuing people. The central character, Jesus, bore in himself our judgment & guides by his timeless teaching. This

story's carried by his church in history, encompassing & speaking to all issues of life, restoring our relationship to God, bringing freedom & joy where there was once none.

7. We've learned, **Community Matters** John 13:34-35

³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Jesus is glorified & fully embodied in the local church. Where two or more are gathered, there He is. We express him in holiness & worshipful obedience. We're ambassadors of Christ. Healthy systems make for a healthy church. We're free to make mistakes as we pursue Christ together, seeking to expand the boundaries of his kingdom reign to our community & beyond. In loving accountability we call each other higher into Christ in attitude & life choices. Fun's important & encouragement's evident, as we practice loving, forgiving & encouraging each other well. The local church is the hope of the world. A witness to the world of the love of God they might also experience.

8. We've learned, **Passion Matters** Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers & sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Worshipful power-filled lives. This service is one aspect of worship. Song & prayer, expressed on Sundays, are communal reflections of individual desire to submit ourselves fully to the transformative power of God. Passion's expressed in song, quiet reflection, care of others, prayer, a pursuit of God's kingdom reign & a desire to reflect Jesus in holiness. We worship holistically.

9. We've learned, **Grace Matters** Ephesians 2:6-10

⁶And God raised us up with Christ & seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

It's about the heart, not simply behavior. Healthy morality is obedience to God's standards sprouting from gratitude of his grace. We grow up in faith as we grow old. Covered by the righteousness of Christ, we have nothing to prove to God or anyone. Grace calls us higher in holiness as we grow deeper in Jesus. With no need to prove our worth we respond in gratitude to what's been done by Christ's death & resurrection. Grace eradicates fear, pride, anger, selfishness, judgement, insecurity & victimhood. Jesus paid it all, producing a freedom & desire to walk with God, love our neighbor well

& rejoice in the Law of God! We're used by God to display his grace & glory to others. Grace never fails, it's the great distinctive separating the Gospel from all other religion!

10. We've learned, **Church Can Be Great.**

10 great years. Our kids are happy. We've weathered life by laying a foundation of Grace & Truth! Six:Eight's the church I'd attend if I didn't pastor it! I love every one of you & look forward to the next decade together. I hope you also have expectant hope as we move forward in the Grace of God led by His word & Spirit!