

Family Ties Finale

Text: Mark 3:31-34, Ephesians 2:14-18, Matthew 5:43-48

Nov. 15, 2020

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. Thanksgiving is traditionally a time to be with family. Describe who would gather with you for that occasion. In what ways are you similar to those who are there? How are you different?
2. How do you determine if a person is a friend or a foe?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Mark 3:31-34. Who does Jesus welcome as family members?
2. What are some of the core beliefs that define those who identify themselves as Christians? In particular, what does a person need to believe, affirm, and confess to become a follower of Jesus?
3. Read the Ephesians passage. What was the division that Paul was addressing among the believers in Ephesus? Note in the context, who comprised the two factions? What were they divided over? How does Paul speak about establishing a way to cross that divide?
4. When you think about the essentials of our Christian faith, what is a core belief that you feel that you cannot compromise on? What is a non-core belief that you can disagree with another person on? How do you distinguish between a core belief and a non-core belief?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. We have just witnessed an election that reveals the divide in our country. What might have led a person to vote for their candidate of choice, President Trump and former Vice President Biden? How can our nation move toward a place of greater unity? How do we heal?
2. In the Matthew passage, Jesus calls us to love our enemies. How do we love family and friends who we disagree with? What if they still see you as "enemy"?
3. How can we resolve deep differences with other Christians? What would be important about our posture and attitude toward them, and our communication with them?
4. What have you personally learned and grown in through our Family Ties series? Pray for each other, our church family, and those whom our church relates to.