

Community Group Notes

Week 5 - Can I Get a Witness?

TRULY HUMAN



Who am I? How did I get into the world? Why was I not asked about it? And if I am compelled to be involved, where the manager – I have something to say about this. - Soren Kierkegaard

This seems to be a question that comes up more often than we are comfortable admitting. There is this inherent desire within humanity to know its purpose, to know what to do, and why we matter. It seems like a good way to begin our year together.

Throughout the biblical story, there is an acute awareness of this need. From the garden and through the New Testament this has been a consistent theme and the communicated desire of God is that humanity would discover what it means to be truly human.

In this series, we are exploring what it means to find new life in Christ, and all the invitations of identity found in Him. This week we explore our identity as - **Witness Bearers**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NIV)

As followers of Jesus, we believe that He is the foundation and the cornerstone of who we are as human beings. A vital part of that identity, and what Jesus called all of His followers to do, is to bear witness and testify to the good news of the Kingdom of God. Not just to be a witness in action and in deed but to hold the beauty of Christ and what He has done for us, in our very being. To truly bear witness is to allow the truth of the good news to have a transformative work in our innermost being so that we can't help but share with others, what has taken place within us.

1) Revelation For Bearing Witness -- Bearing witness is not just about the words being said, but about the person we are representing. The call of Jesus is to fully embody the good news of the Kingdom of God. (1 Peter 2:11-12)

2) The Power of Bearing Witness -- Just like the disciples bore witness to the good news embodied in Jesus, so Jesus gives us the strength and ability to bear witness to the world around us. Not through our own words and thoughts but by the power of the Holy Spirit living within us.

3) The Transformation of Bearing Witness -- Bearing the good news of Jesus is supposed to transform and do something within us. *“I have seen something that has changed my life and I need to tell you about it so it can change yours.”*

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QUESTIONS:

- *What is the difference between being a witness to someone and bearing witness to someone? How could shifting from being to bearing make an impact on how we share the gospel with others?*
- *What have been your experiences in witnessing to others? If bearing witness to the good news of Jesus is more about the words we speak, what else should we consider when sharing the gospel?*
- *To be a witness bearer is to allow the good news of Jesus to take root in our hearts and to do a transformative work in us. Are there areas in your heart or in your life that you need to ask Jesus to restore or transform, in order to truly bear witness to others?*

What have you seen? What have you experienced?