“Under New Management”
Pastors Remy & Kyle
Cedarbrook Church
5.26.19

Outline:

Five principles that have guided Cedarbrook’s vision:
1. Jesus came to save, not condemn. John 3:16, 17
2. Jesus came to serve, not be served. Matthew 20:28
3. Jesus came to bring his kingdom, not a new religion. Matthew 6:10
4. Jesus calls us to obey, not just believe. Matthew 7:24-27
5. Jesus called us to make disciples, not go to church. Matthew 28:19,20

Going Deeper: use the following questions for personal reflection and/or to discuss with family, friends and small group.

1. Now that Pastor Kyle has been voted in as the new Lead Pastor, what excites you about this transition?
2. What are your concerns (if any)?
3. Take a look at the following verses. What stands out to you about each one?
   a. John 3:16, 17
   b. Matthew 20:28
   c. Matthew 6:10
   d. Matthew 7:24-27 (in summary to his Sermon on the Mount)
   e. Matthew 28:19,20
4. Have you seen these verses lived out in the ministry of Cedarbrook?
5. How can you live into these verses, that is, make them a reality in your life?
6. What do you think of this statement as it relates to church: *Come as you are, but don’t stay as you are.*
7. How can you help support the current transition of leadership at Cedarbrook?

Message

I’ve mentioned a few times in the past weeks, that voting in Pastor Kyle as our new Lead Pastor is historic. It's never happened before and it hopefully won’t happen again for many years.

Next September we will officially install Kyle in his new role, which means we'll invite in some leaders from our denomination to pray for Kyle and we’ll throw a big party. But today I want to invite Kyle to join me to discuss the transition and our shared values.

So Pastor Kyle, please join me.

Remy:
Kyle, we voted you in last Sunday as our new Lead Pastor and then another big event happened last night. Tell us about that.

Kyle: mentions his graduation from Bethel seminary.

Remy:
I've got a couple questions for us and then I've got five Bible verses I'd like us to talk about. The first question is: **how will things change in our working relationship?**

Kyle:
In many ways, nothing will change. Two years ago, when I was made the Executive Pastor, I took over the management of the staff and ministry areas freeing up Remy to focus in on his sermons and meeting with people one on one. That was kind of a trial run to see how things would work between us. It’s worked great, so that’s what we’ll continue to do now.

Remy:
So, in one way, nothing changes, but the big change will be that Kyle will be the go-to person for shaping who we become in the future, along with the LEAD and Ops Team. I’ve purposefully included Kyle in on all the decision making over the past few years anticipating this possible transition. I’ll be around for input when asked, but I’m going to do my best to keep a low profile.

Now, most people know me pretty well just by listening to my stories every week. Not everyone knows Kyle that well. So I thought it would be good for us explain how we are the same and how we are different. Kyle, I’ll let you go first, **How do you think we are the same and how are we different?**

Kyle:
**Similar**
Passion for The mission and Vision of Cedarbrook. From Day one when Remy called me to talk about joining the staff I was excited about the idea of a church for people who had given up on Church but not on God. That phrase that Remy used in starting the church, that phrase that may have been one of the reasons that may have brought you in these doors was the reason I came in these doors and joined the staff 8.5 years ago.

We both have a strong desire to introduce people to Jesus and see them grow to know His love! Vision for the future, to see God do big things in this church and community. We are both Uber responsible and care about details.

**Different**
The biggest way is that Remy is an introvert, he recharges through time studying, and in smaller groups of people he knows well.
While we are both driven to accomplish things, we go about it in different ways. Remy works a little more independent and I like to build teams of people to accomplish things with me.

**Remy:**

**Similar:**

Kyle and I are both visionaries. We really light up when we talk about the things that God can do. We both see the big picture and let other people focus on the details.

We are problem solvers. Neither of us spend much time complaining about what is. We prefer to just fix what’s broken when we can. We are both highly responsible and hard workers. So, we are enough alike that it’s very easy to work together.

**How are we different?**

Kyle is an extreme extrovert. He gets jazzed by a room full of people. I rather meet with someone one on one.

Kyle thinks way bigger than I do. I saw this right away when he took our youth ministry from 20 students to 120 over three years. I went, “WHOA, this guy is high capacity.” I saw this too when he brought me the idea of Mission Possible. He wanted to eliminate all of our fundraisers and raise $50,000 in one weekend. My first thought was, “No way. That will never work. But then I realized that if anyone could do it, Kyle could. So I approved the idea and the rest is history.” Kyle loves to multi-task. I like to focus in on one or two things.

So, we really complement each other well. And I trust that when I move on that we will find someone who is equally matched to Kyle.

**(Remy continues);**

If we have time at the end, we might answer some other questions, but I’d like to talk about five verses in the Bible that talk about Jesus’ ministry. These are five values that Jesus had and I’ve used as markers for shaping Cedarbrook.

If you’ve been around here for any amount of time I think you’ll recognize them. They are near and dear to my heart. But I want you to hear what Kyle has to say about them.

**The first verse:**

Jesus came to save, not condemn.

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. *John 3:16, 17*

**Remy:**
This tells me that if Jesus wasn’t condemning people, we have no right to either. Rescuing people has nothing to do with who people are. What they believe. What they look like or how they live.

In the early days, I compared it to people drowning in the ocean. Our job isn’t to criticize people for being in the water. Our job is to get them out of the water and into God’s boat and then let God’s Spirit do his work in them.

Kyle:
Since I first read this verse I simply loved it. I often refer to this verse as the most overlooked verse in the bible. We have all seen John 3:16 and heard it many times before, its at nearly every football game on signs, but we never read on to John 3:17.

In these few quick words we learn why Jesus came to the earth. He did not come to condemn us and tell us all the things we did wrong, but to save us. Simply put he came to set us free from Sin, from our own failures and mistakes, not to point them out to us. We know our mistakes and weaknesses, we do not need others to draw attention to them, but we need people to love us even when we are down or on the wrong path.

Next verse:
Jesus came to serve, not be served.
... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20:28

Remy:
This verse hit me hard about a year into the life of the church. We got off to a strong start, quickly attracting 300 people. But it bothered me that we seemed to be just a more contemporary version of church.

People filed in and filed out every Sunday. They like it better than their old church, but I didn’t see it changing their lives. This verse showed me what we needed to do. We needed people to help people stop being consumers and start being servants.

Kyle:
Jesus came as an example of Servant leadership. He came as the Son of God. But he did not take that seat as a seat of power or authority, but rather he became a servant. We can learn so much from Jesus and His leadership. As a leader, it is not our job to boss others around, but to empower people and develop them. That is what I seek to do every day. Empower, train, and develop.

Next verse:
Jesus came to bring his kingdom, not a new religion.
“This, then, is how you should pray: “‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:9,10

Remy:
In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us one example for prayer, so it must be pretty important. In that prayer, he said we should ask God to send his kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. And in the rest of that sermon he showed us HOW to bring his kingdom.

Put simply, we bring God’s kingdom to earth by treating people like God would treat them and living lives that reflect the character of God. We become the tangible expression of God in our homes and communities.

Because of this, I’ve always geared my sermons for these two outcomes: Developing God honoring character and treating others with dignity and respect.

Kyle:
I think this is an important concept for us to grasp, that we are to bring heaven to earth not try to earn our salvation. So often we focus on what Heaven will be like in the afterlife, but more important than that is what this world could be like if we live lives that reflect God’s love and bring that Kingdom of heaven to earth, RIGHT NOW.

How amazing would that be if we could live in the kingdom right now and not just wait for it after we have died. That is what Jesus is teaching us about, we do not have to wait, we can have his Kingdom here.

Next verse:
Jesus calls us to obey, not just believe.

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. Matthew 7:24-27

Remy:
We lose credibility with the world when we talk about Jesus without living like Jesus. The Bible says that even the demons believe in God.

Saying you believe in God means nothing. Obeying God’s word is what separates the true believers. This has to do with what I just talked about: character and how we treat people.

Kyle:
Obeying is the fruit of our faith. Our relationship with God is not about following the rules and living the right life because we have to, but because we want to. When we know God, and trust Him the natural result is that we want to honor him as much as we can.

A simple analogy here is marriage, there is nothing holding us back from cheating on our spouse except honor. We obey to bring Honor to them and our marriage. With our faith we obey God’s teaching not because we will be condemned if we don’t, but because we want to honor God we obey because we want to honor God and bring his kingdom here on earth.

Next verse:
Jesus called us to make disciples, not go to church.
...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19,20

Remy:
Our American Christian culture has taught people that going to a meeting on Sunday once a week, or whenever it’s convenient, is the sign of being a Christian. But Jesus said that the true sign of being a Christian is when you choose to put God first in every part of your life. It’s a 24/7 deal, not a weekly meeting.

Kyle:
Again this one boils down to fruit. As we follow Jesus there begins to develop this evidence of that Relationship. In Gatanians the Apostle Paul calls it the fruit of the spirit. Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. As we get to know more and more about this faith life, and as we live in this Kingdom of God here on earth longer and longer we begin to show more and more evidence of our relationship with Jesus and it looks like this fruit of the spirit.

Remy;
Well, I hope this helps you to get a better understanding of how Cedarbrook will move forward, “Under New Management.” I’m excited about what God has in store for us.