

Sunday June 23 through Sunday June 30

- Pastor Robert continues his walk with us through the Be-Attitudes to show us how to become more like Christ.
- The Parsonage Study Group will be meeting Monday evening at 6:30 pm.
- The Ugly Mug Study Group will be meeting at 11 am Tuesday.
- Wednesday evening there will be Bible Study at 6 pm and Choir Practice will follow at 7 pm.
- The Youth Lock In was rescheduled for Friday evening. Please drop your Youth member off at 10 pm.
- Parents, please have your Youth picked up by 7 am Saturday morning.
- SCOUT SUNDAY will honor two new Eagle Scouts. There will be a Potluck Meal & Fellowship to follow the worship service.



“Maybe it wasn’t the message they wanted to hear, but now you’re sure they were listening.”

This WEEK at Trinity

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Sunday June 23

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
5:00 pm—UMYF

Monday June 24

6:30 pm—Parsonage Study Group
7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Tuesday June 25

11:00 am—Ugly Mug Study Group

Wednesday June 26

6:00 pm—Bible Study
7:00 pm—Choir Practice

Thursday June 27

No Scheduled Activities

Friday June 28

9:00 am—MEOC
—Fellowship Hall reserved
10:00 pm—UMYF Lock In Drop Off

Saturday June 29

7:00 am—UMYF Lock In Pick Up

Sunday June 30

Scout Sunday

10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
12:00 pm—Potluck Meal
5:00 pm—UMYF

Blessed are you when you are persecuted and reviled for righteousness sake...

God designed us to multitask! Many of us have seen the guy driving a car at 80 mph, eating, drinking, and talking on a cellphone. God created us with a still calm place that watches all things. In the middle, in between the heart and mind, God breathed our soul. Great Spiritual Masters like Richard Rohr calls this calm place awareness. Psychology calls it consciousness. Jesus calls it soul.

No matter what we call it, God created us with the capacity to enter our souls, the calm place, where our “hunger and thirst for righteousness shall me filled.” Here we see and hear judgement leading us into sin that denies God’s will and blinds us to the way of Jesus’ Love I contend that people struggle with Jesus because judgement excludes the soul from guiding the heart and mind. The heart and mind are lost in judgment of right and wrong, or choosing sides, without awareness of the soul. (Judgment is the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Love is the fruit of the Tree of Life.)

We live in a culture where thousands of people seek to define us and lord over our lives. Throughout our lives we have been conditioned to answer “what” questions at the expense of not knowing “who” God created us to Be. The following are a few examples of “what” questions that help shape and form “what” we do in the world.

- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- What will your college degree prepare you to do?
- To what civic, social, or athletic club(s) do you belong?
- What kind of car, house, clothes, ... do you prefer?
- What is your religious preference?
- What denomination do you attend?
- What political party do you support?
- What news broadcast do you prefer to listen?

Let’s shift our focus from “what” we do to “who” God created us to Be. The beauty of Jesus’ Be-Attitudes comes through the blessings of being the “poor in spirit” who “mourn.” As Richard Rohr says, people must encounter a great deal of brokenness, failure, and suffering before they are ready to enter the Spiritual Life, their Soul, or Follow Jesus.

Our answers to the “what” questions reveal “what” we do in the world, but fails to answer “who” God created us to Be. As the Apostle Paul says, we are to “live in the world, but not of it.” Who God created us to Be fulfills God’s will and reflects God’s will on earth as it is in Heaven. The following “who” questions strike at the core of having the same mind that was in Christ Jesus. These questions help us become conscious and aware of the still small voice of God resonating in our souls.

- Who loves you? Let the words of I Corinthians 13:4-7 show you the attitudes of the people who love you.
- Who do you trust with your life, feelings, thoughts, and actions?
- Who loves you, especially when they see and recognize the shame or guilt of your sin?
- The Great Command says, “Love your neighbor as self.” To love our neighbors, we first experience God loving us as defined in I Corinthians 13:4-7. Until then we will settle for love as lust, selfishness, friendship, family, and marriage.
- Who are you? Do people know you as “meek,” “merciful,” “pure of heart,” or “a child of God”?

Defining people with their answers to our “what” questions encourages judgment. Listen to the way we use labels. Conservative, Liberal, Progressive, Selfish, Engineer, Teacher...Labels either state “what we do” or reveal the judgments used to persecute and revile our neighbors. Either way, labels reduce people to a “what” at the expense of “who” God created us to Be. Once we strip people of their God created image, we feel justified in persecuting and reviling them.

Spend time listening to a person suffering from being “poor in spirit.” The “poor in spirit” let their persecutors be lord of their lives. This is why it is so important to know “who” loves you. Therefore, the disciples of Christ shall BE persecuted and reviled. The disciple who hungers and thirsts for righteousness, however, will NOT respond with a “poor in spirit” attitude. The righteous disciple blesses those who curse them. They respond with the Be-Attitudes of the “merciful” and “pure in heart” “peacemaker” who has the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.

Trust your life, feelings, thoughts, and actions to those who love you as defined in I Corinthians 13:4-7. With everyone else, love them as an enemy of the Cross of Christ. When you are about to lose your Peace, Patience, Kindness, Hope, and Faith in Christ go out into the streets, dust your feet off and remember that through you the Kingdom of God came near.

One in Christ,
Robert