

Discussion Questions: "The Cross Makes Us Different"

Opening Question:

If you could choose one word to describe your faith journey so far, what would it be and why?

General Observation:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon about how the cross makes us different?
2. Which of the six values discussed (holiness, audaciousness, generosity, being winsome, excellence, oneness) resonated with you the most and why?

Understanding the Message:

1. The pastor said, "Holiness is a value. It's a standard." How does viewing holiness as a value rather than just a set of rules change our approach to living a Christian life?
2. How did the pastor define being "audacious" in our faith? Why is this important for Christians today?
3. In what ways did the sermon challenge our understanding of generosity beyond just financial giving?

Personal Application:

1. The sermon mentioned asking "Is it holy?" as a guiding question for our choices. How might regularly asking this question change your daily decisions?
2. The pastor said, "Fear will always fence you in." Can you share an example from your own life where fear has limited you, and how your faith might help you overcome that?
3. How can you be more "winsome" in your faith, drawing others to Christ through your actions and attitudes?

Action Steps:

1. Choose one of the six values discussed (holiness, audaciousness, generosity, being winsome, excellence, oneness). What is one specific action you can take this week to live out that value more fully?
2. The sermon emphasized the importance of unity in the church. What is one thing you can do to promote oneness within our church community?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for the cross that makes us different. Help us to embrace the values You've called us to live by - holiness, audaciousness, generosity, being winsome, excellence, and oneness. Give us the courage to reject fear and live boldly for You. May our lives draw others to You as we seek to honor You in all we do. Guide us to be a united church that displays Your glory to the world. In Your name we pray, Amen.