

# Why New Day Community?

This morning I want to ask you a question that is the most important one that I've asked you in quite a while. It's not about your politics, it's not about your favorite sports team or your favorite food. It has nothing to do with a vacation spot or the type of music you listen to in the car. The question I'm going to ask you though has far reaching implications. Are you ready? Here it is. Why do you attend New Day Community Church?

"Why would anyone attend New Day Community Church?" is a question that I ask myself on a regular basis. I ask the question while things are going well; I ask the question while things are not going so well. I ask the question when I'm praying; I ask the question while I'm driving. I ask the question while preparing messages and I ask the question while thinking about sermon series'.

## First, We Can Have The Time Of Our Lives Connecting

We become great people by connecting with God, which will allow us to become a great Church and then have the time of our lives. Connecting with God means to develop a relationship with God that impacts all areas of our lives. So, this morning I want to help all of us discover how to connect with God.

**Matthew 22:35-40 "One of them, an expert in religious law, tried to trap him with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" 37 Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." NLT**

Wrapped in those verses are two commands that together allow us to connect with God and then will help us to become great people so that we can become a great Church and have the time of our lives.

### #1: Love God

**Matthew 22:37-38 "Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment." NLT**

Loving God is how we connect with God and connecting with God is always a relationship. In order to connect with God and become a great person we have to understand that the connection requires a relationship with God. So, the way to connect with God is through loving God with all of our heart, soul and mind.

### #2: Love People

**Matthew 22:39 "A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" NLT**

A second aspect of connecting with God and being a great person is loving people. The only way that I know to have the time of my life is to love God and to love other people.

You see, we are all faced with a decision. Do we want to just get by in life or do we want to have a great life? No one can answer that question for you. It's up to you and it's up to me and the way that we can have a great life is to love God and to love people. I know so many miserable people. I work with them, they wait on me at banks, grocery stores, gas stations and unfortunately over the last 28 years, I've been the pastor of some people who were miserable. Friends, the best way that I know to break out of any miserable cycle is to love God and to love people and then I've taken an important step to becoming great.

**Question: Is your level of love for God and people sufficient enough to help you live a great life?**

## Second, We Can Have The Time Of Our Lives Growing

**Colossians 4:12 "...that you may become mature Christians and that you may fulfill God's will for you." Phillips Translation**

**Ephesians 4:14-15 “We are not meant to remain as children but to grow up in every way into Christ.” Phillips Translation**

God’s Word describes four major habits that will help us to grow up or mature in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

### **#1: Spend Time Studying God’s Word**

**John 8:31 “So Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are really my disciples.” International Standard Version**

### **#2: Spend Time Praying**

**John 15:7 “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it.” TEV**

### **#3: Spend Time Giving - Tithing**

**Deuteronomy 14:23 “The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives.” TLB**

### **#4: Spend Time Fellowshiping**

**John 13:34-35 “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” NLT**

**Discussion: What can we do this week that will help us grow the most in our relationships with God?**

## **Third, We Can Have The Time Of Our Lives Ministering**

**Ephesians 4:11-12 “It was he who "gave gifts to mankind"; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. <sup>12</sup> He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ.” TEV**

**1 Corinthians 12:4-6 “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.” NLT**

We can have the time of our lives ministering in Jesus’ name – doing our part of building up the body of Christ by helping to meet people’s needs in any number of ways. We will have the time of our lives as a Church when you, me, when all of us have discovered our SHAPE – how God has put us together and are using who we are and how God has made us to make a difference in other people’s lives. Over the next several months I’m going to preach and teach some messages that will help us all discover our purpose for being alive, some steps that I guarantee will help us grow in our relationship with God. I will preach a couple of messages that will help us discover how God has SHAPed us for ministry and also how to fulfil our life mission of helping others become followers of Jesus Christ.

## **Fourth, We Can Have The Time Of Our Lives Serving**

**Ephesians 2:10 “God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.” TEV**

**Acts 20:24 “The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me to tell people the good news about God’s grace.” NCV**

God has planned for all of us to have a place to serve – a mission of helping to reach people for Jesus Christ. The amazing thing about our life mission is that no matter how old or young we are; no matter how many years or how few years that we have been a Christian – our Mission is still the same and it is to go and be involved in the process of making disciples – of introducing people to Jesus Christ.

## **Fifth, We Can Have The Time Of Our Lives Worshiping**

**Matthew 4:10** “Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” NIV

**Psalm 29:2** “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.” NIV

**Psalm 100:2** “Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” NIV

There are almost 200 references in the Scriptures about the importance of Worship and Worshiping God. We are challenged to Worship God in Spirit and in truth. We are commanded to only Worship God. We are told that God is worthy of our worship and that we should worship God with joy in our hearts and lives.

**Application:** What do you need to change about your life this week so that you can begin having the time of your life?