

Sermon Notes

When We Open Our Arms, God Runs toward Us

Genesis 3:8-9 Ephesians 1:22-23

November 14, 2021

STANDING NAKED BEFORE GOD

Genesis 3:8 *When they heard the sound of God strolling in the garden in the evening breeze, the Man and his Wife hid in the trees of the garden, hid from God.*

Genesis 3:9 *But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"*

A GLIMPSE INTO GOD'S HEART

Genesis 3 is about the mysterious, almighty, transcendent God, who is walking around looking for His creatures.

Throughout the Bible we see the same thing over and over – God wants to hang out with us.

Exodus 25:8 *"Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them."*

We're in this together

Exodus 25:2 *I want you to take an offering, and I want it only from people whose hearts prompt them to give.*

We are responsible for our hearts ... we choose what kind of hearts we'll make available as God's dwelling place.

Our giving molds us into the people who are receptive to God.

"As we open our arms, God runs toward us". – Meister Eckhart

GOD WANTS TO HANG OUT SOME MORE

John 1:14 *So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.*

Jesus doesn't want us to just get through this life so that we can escape to heaven; He wants to live among us now and so to bring heaven here - to us and through us.

Mark 1:15 *"... The kingdom of God is near. Change your hearts and lives and believe the Good News!"*

Ephesians 1:23 *And the church is His body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with His presence.*

Dominant Questions for Programmatic Churches:

Is this a worthwhile program? Is it effective?

Dominant Question for Incarnational Churches

"What kind of people are the members and its leaders becoming as they do their ministry together?"

The church is in the transformation business, and its product is changed lives.

Three things people are seeking:

to be part of something bigger than themselves

to have an impact on the world

to be part of a healthy, authentic community