

Stronger Together Service
Greater Holy Temple and The Bridge Church
11/22/15

- Matt: Intro—welcome everyone here, especially our friends from Greater Holy Temple
- The Bridge helped restore their church building through the citywide project called “One Makeover.”
- Pastor Leon and I have served together, worshipped together and prayed together through our pastor organization called “One Christ Won City.”

-Matt: Pray

(1) Share Our Stories

- Pastor Leon and how he came to faith in Christ (Doubting Thomas)
In my early christen faith a passage stuck with me John 20:24-29 NIV
Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

-Pastor Matt and how he came to faith in Christ

(2) Share Our Hearts

a. *Passion*

-Pastor Leon shares about what he wants he wants this congregation gathered together today to know more than anything.

-"God loves you."

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have ever lasting life NIV

-Pastor Matt shares:

-"The Lordship of Jesus."

-Over 200 times, Jesus is referred to as “Lord.”

-When the Holy Spirit comes in, He first comes in as Resident.

-But when He comes in, He soon takes over as President.

-One of my favorite titles of Jesus is “Master.”

-When Jesus is Master,

-You can’t choose to do what you want. You do what the Master wants.

-You can’t choose where you go. You go where the Master wants you to go.

-You can’t choose whom you love, you love who the Master wants to love through you.

-Prominent white, Baptist Leader was in Jackson, Mississippi last week addressing the issue of racism.

-Standing alongside Black Pastors, he said, *“One of the reasons I came to this city was to notify Satan and his demonic forces that enough is enough. The power of God is greater than the forces of evil, even the evil of racism, because greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world. It is now that the church of Jesus Christ must rise. We must rise together as one. We are not black churches. We are not white churches. We are not Latino churches and we’re not Asian churches and we’re not any other kind of church. We are the church of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God.”* (Ronnie Floyd)

-The Lord Jesus compels us to love one another, and that’s what we are demonstrating here today.

b. Passage

-Pastor Leon shares from the Bible "Gideon"

Judges 6th & 7th Chapter

-Pastor Matt shares

-**1 Peter 2:2** (NKJV) as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby;

-You cannot grow without the milk and meat of the Word of God.

-It is the Word that tells us God’s will for us and God’s desire for us.

-**Romans 12:2** (NIV) Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

-What is His will for everyone?

-To be conformed to the image of Jesus.

-Living, thinking, loving, serving, speaking...like Jesus.

-That’s what the Word does. It changes us to be like HIM.

c. Purpose

-Pastor Leon shares why it's important for us to be standing here together today?

That we will be one in Christ

Philippians 2:1-5 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: - NIV

-Pastor Matt shares

-**Jerry Young**, President of the National Baptist Convention, USA (comprised of Black Baptists) said to the same audience in Jackson, Mississippi,

“Because in the final analysis, Jesus says that the church, we alone are the salt and the light of the world. And, if the church is not light and if the church is not salt, then the world itself is left to nothing but darkness and decay.”

-Jesus commanded us to “Love One Another.”

-1 John 3:14 (NLT) If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead.

-We are evidencing here today to the city of Venice, that God’s love reigns in us.

-As we submit to the Lordship of Christ and as we submit to the authority of the Word of God, God is demonstrated to a watching world through us.

-Conclusion:

-We want God’s love to reign in you today as well.

-Do you have a relationship with Him?

-Are you submitted to the Lordship of Jesus?

-Are you submitted to the authority of the Word of God?

-Bridge Group Questions

1. What impacted you most about this week’s message?
2. Jesus clearly redeems people from every race, nation, tongue and tribe. What is your redemption story? How did you come to faith in Christ?
3. What feelings did you get as you worshiped with two unique churches worshipping as one church? How were you moved by this experience?
4. How could this event help bring glory to God and help people come to Christ?
5. What are some other ways that we can tangibly demonstrate to our city the love of God? What is God stirring in you?
6. Pray for the churches in our city, that they may be one.