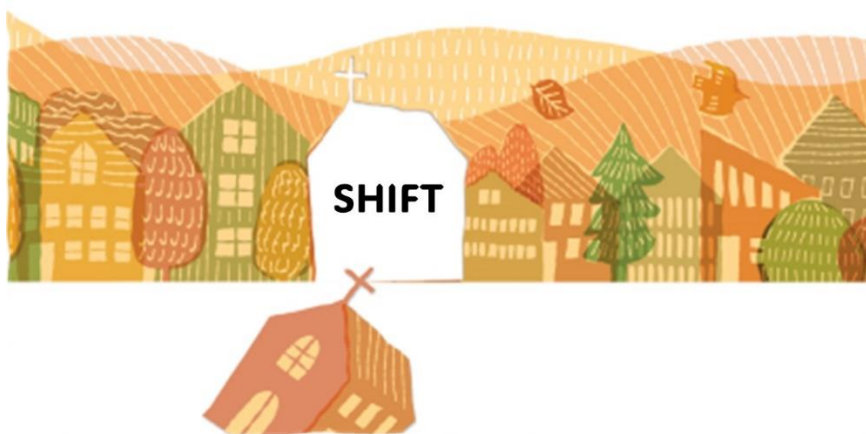


JOURNEY

lutheran ministries



Confession & Mission *Week One*

Journeylutheranministries.org

Connect *(10 minutes)*

Why this series? The Christian church at large is declining at a rapid rate. That means less and less people believe in Jesus or will do anything that involves growing in their faith. What are your observations of people and the church?

Respond *(10 minutes)*

Sometimes churches divide themselves into two different camps, confessional or missional. How do you understand these two different adjectives to be when it comes to a church?

We will use this very easy, general understanding that a confessional church focuses on being right with doctrine but no love for the neighbor.

We will say a missional church with the same understanding focuses on accommodating it's ministry and belief to those who struggle with God's desire of living.

- Where have you seen the church struggle in maintaining being right over engaging people who need Jesus?
- Where have you seen the church struggle in affirming peoples sinful lifestyles while setting aside God's word?

Expand (60 minutes)

1. Revelation chapter 2 gives examples of a church that struggled with being only confessional and another church that struggled in being only missional. Read Revelation 2:1-4, and read Revelation 2:12-15. Which church would be the confessional one and which would be the missional one?

2. The church in Ephesus was a fortress of good doctrine. What is it that Ephesus had forgotten? Why is being right in doctrine not enough for our community if you forget the first love— Jesus, his death and resurrection for the forgiveness of our lives? When have you chosen to be right in the doctrine over providing the love of Jesus in a proper way?

3. Prideful churches begin to elevate secondary and tertiary issues to become a primary conviction. Revelation 2:5 says to the church of Ephesus ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. What are some things that people put a preference above at a church rather than Jesus?

4. The church in Pergamum wanted everyone to know about Jesus, that is a good thing. In doing so they traded the clear teachings of God for cultural accommodations. What teachings of God is the church overlooking to accommodate people into the church? What teachings have you overlooked or chosen not to press?

5. What does this saying mean...People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care? Share a time when you saw this play out?

6. In a recent study 30% of those dechurched said they wished their parents had simply listened more. In our desire to enter and engage this world, we need to know are we listening more than we are speaking. Why can listening sometimes be difficult? As a follower of Jesus, who do you need to listen to more?

7. Introducing people to one another can be difficult. When you know the two people the introduction can be amazing. When is it right to introduce someone to Jesus?

8. Missional and confessional aren't two opposing ideas we need to hold in tension with each other. They are two truths meant to work together. Jesus is the perfect model of this living.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Biblical love holds tight to Jesus and all that he teaches, but lets loose every other preference that might hinder reaching the world we live in. What are preferences that you are holding onto to tight that interfere with reaching your family member, neighbor, co-worker or classmate?

What confession of God and in his word do you struggle with the most? Why is that? Knowing between you and God He is always right, how will you go about dealing with this?

Honor *(3 minutes)*

Pray is an important time for you to grow in your relationship with God. Your prayer time can be broken down into four helpful components. There is a simple acrostic named ACTS. Some people prefer to change the order, but whatever you chose, it is helpful to include these components in your prayer time. You will find these components in the Lord's prayer and that is the example of prayer to God that Jesus gave to us. Let's take a look at what ACTS stands for.

- A = adoration
- C = confession
- T = thanksgiving
- S = supplication

Over this series we encourage you to pray daily. That's it, Pray Daily! There are no time limits, no specifics of what to pray about, just be in prayer daily.

Pray now and see where God takes you!

Apply *(7 minutes)*

- ❖ Through this study you have seen where you lean being more Missional or confessional. Where you lean isn't wrong, but it may not help you be complete in living as Jesus modeled for us to live. What will you choose to help balance you?

If I lean wanting to be right in doctrine, but don't know how to love

- ❖ Build a passion for people. Find a way to spend time serving others who are struggling in life. It is the soul God cares about, build a way for you to care about others soul's.
- ❖ Prayer daily for God to provide you opportunities to interact with people where you can share how His grace in your life has changed you and why you choose to follow Jesus.

If I lean wanting to accommodate the lifestyles of others without telling them God's word

- ❖ Take time studying God's word about specific sins that you struggle in seeing God not allowing to happen. Talk with other Christians or your pastor about it.
- ❖ Prayer daily for God to provide you opportunities to interact with people where you can share how His grace in your life has changed you and why you choose to follow Jesus.

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