

Antioch CELEBRATION Message: "Strange Church"

Sermon Series: "Strange Things"

Dates: December 3-4, 2016

LEARN / live / love / lead

How have you found Antioch to be "strange" in a good way?

Jesus told his disciples, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **Acts 1:8 (NLT)**

People expressed the vision Jesus gave them in three ways:

1. They radically risked to reach people far from God.
 - How does Antioch encourage you to radically risk for the good of others?

2. They uncompromisingly called every believer to full devotion to Christ.
 - What does "full devotion to Christ" look like?
 - James 2:17 teaches us that "faith without works is dead." Why is it important to have both? Can you have faith without works? Can you have works without faith?

3. They unleashed unprecedented levels of compassion in this world.
 - How have Christians shown you compassion?
 - Why does God allow pain? Consider the following:
 - For better or worse, God has given human beings freedom to make choices that have actual consequences.
 - God is not distant from your pain; he experienced deep pain and humiliation through Jesus' life and death.
 - Romans 8:28 assures us that God works through all—good and bad—to accomplish good for those who are in Jesus!
 - Pain is not the final chapter—Jesus' resurrection gives us power to live a new life on earth and have eternal life in Heaven!
 - Christians filled with the Holy Spirit are the compassionate hands, feet, and voices of Jesus around the WORLD!



Leading People into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus Christ!
www.lifeisforliving.org

learn / LIVE / love / lead

There are three kinds of people in every church:

Drive through (drive up, order what I want, eat it fast, move on)

Flu shot (get just enough Jesus to make sure I don't get sick spiritually)

Committed Core (committed to putting faith into action and loving others)

Which one most adequately reflects where you are right now?

learn / live / LOVE / lead

Take a moment to describe how God has wired you to show compassion to others.

How do you like to help people?

What opportunities are you currently taking that allow you to love others with Jesus' compassion?

We were encouraged to "invest and invite" – who do you need to reach out to?

learn / live / love / LEAD

Pastor John encouraged us to be the kind of church that practices the holistic love of Christ, being concerned about the spiritual needs of people AND the physical, medical, and nutritional needs as well. How does Pastor John's encouragement inspire you to get involved?

Pray!

Ask God to help YOU be an influential component to a "strange" church! First you have to recognize what God wants His church to look like. Second you have to be willing for the Holy Spirit to use YOU to accomplish His will!