



Love Activated: K(no)w Love, K(no)w Change

June 14th, 2020

Speakers: Chris Parker
Scriptures: Acts 2:42-47

Series Overview

The book of Acts is not the end of Jesus' story, but the story of the beginning of the church. It focuses on the work of God through the Holy Spirit in the lives of people who devoted themselves to Jesus. In this series, we will discover God's plan for the church, learn how each and every one of us are called to reach out, and how we are directed to come to together in unity pursuing God's work.

Announcements

- **June 21st, 2020, 10 am | Drive-In Church Service** – Join us for our third Drive-In Church service. This service will also be broadcasted online. Reserve your spot online www.northgatebuffalo.com.

Ice Breaker

Who is your favorite superhero and why?

Message Overview

The world is currently full of uncertainty with headlines being filled about either the pandemic or civil uprising. It has been a highly emotionally charged period that's been exacerbated from division of thoughts and behaviors. As humans, we tend seek to achieve unity through "sameness" – looking to associate with those who look like us, speak like us, and live like us. However, that is not God's intention. As demonstrated in Acts, God's goal for the church (and world) is unity through diversity. God wants many nations, tribes, people, and tongues to be standing before the throne, united through Him. The church in Acts focused on 1) practices (apostles' teachings, breaking bread, prayer) 2) proximity (being together) and 3) permanence (commitment to relationship). God wants us to grow and change. If there is no love, there can be no change. However, when we know Jesus, when we know love, it is then we are able to change to become the people that God meant us to be.

Message-Specific Discussion Questions

- The current American church's lifestyle is drastically different from the church established in Acts. Discuss how your lifestyle aligns or is different from how people were in Acts. Why?
- Describe factors that have contributed to your past successes or failures to connect and love people who have different opinions than you.
- Reflect on your experiences with the pandemic and the current racial tensions. What has God shown you during this time about yourself?
- How do you think the people in Acts would have handled these crises?

Practical Application

- Similar to Psalm 139: 23-24, please take time this week to pray and ask God to search your heart and identify any offenses that lie within and give you wisdom on how to change.