

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35
Union Valley, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

MISSION STATEMENT

*Ride out and round up the lost cowboys and cowgirls
Everywhere so they can know our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

November 15, 2015 ~ Words To Live By

LOVE GOD/LOVE PEOPLE

The idea of loving everybody is a great idea, but it gets tough in reality with everyday life kind of people

Who are the people that bother me...that make it tough for me to love everybody?

People who park right in the middle of the aisle at rodeo's making it impossible to get your truck and trailer in or out! People who are not ready to order when they're in the drive through line!

Jesus seemed to be able to love people that often irritated him. Pharisees (ultra-committed to keeping the law), Sadducees (money and power), Essenes – out by themselves, weird clothing...Jesus would disagree with them but yet talk comfortably with them. He treated them like neighbors. We tend to ignore situations that make us feel uncomfortable or irritated.

The Creed –

How Jews began every day and ended every day. When Jesus was two, his parents would begin and end every day with the same phrase, "Hear O' Israel..."

Complication – History tells there was a great debate in Jesus' day about what the greatest commandment was. They wanted to try and reduce the 613 Old Testament commandments to a phrase they could remember. This debate reached Jesus in Mark.

Mark 12:28-31 ²⁸ *One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"* ²⁹ *"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* ³¹ *The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There*

is no commandment greater than these.” (Lev.19:18) neighbor passage only used once by Jesus, and Moses...Jesus joins the two as one.

Jesus is saying the whole Bible can be reduced to loving God and Loving people. If you do these two you actually fulfill all the others and if you don't it doesn't matter how many of the 613 laws you keep, you miss the point.

It is actually easier to keep the other 611 than to keep these two.

³² “Well said, teacher,” (I think it's funny, he is complimenting God) ***the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. ³³ To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”*** (he knew what was right; he just had to go do it) ***And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.***

Three things that will happen if you live by the Jesus Creed

1. It will make you aware of the people who need to become neighbors
2. It will make you realize you're responsible for making people neighbors
3. It will make you realize people becoming neighbors is always inconvenient (it's always at the worst times)

The Conversion – Jesus is teaching the disciples who are about to go out. This is the challenge of your life. (whoever welcomes you welcomes God) their response to you is their response to God.

Matthew 10:40-42 ⁴⁰ “He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

(how God judges us)

Matthew 25:34-36 ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

The disciples asked when did we see you like that ... Jesus answered, Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it to me ...

The Convenience Factor – It is always inconvenient to see people as neighbors you have to love them as you love yourself.

God judges you not by how many Sundays you come to church, but by how many you convert from just people to neighbors.

Application: find something this week that can serve as a “a cup of cold water” to a person who needs to become your neighbor.