

2025-01-12 – Beyond Solo Christianity

Summary

This sermon explores the roots and essence of Methodism, focusing on the life and teachings of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement. It emphasizes the importance of community, discipleship, and holiness within the Methodist tradition. The sermon highlights how Methodism is not just a denomination but a movement that seeks to bring people together in small groups for spiritual growth, accountability, and support. It encourages believers to engage in relational discipleship, where they can support each other in their spiritual journeys and strive towards holiness, reflecting the teachings of Jesus and the early Methodist practices.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing us together today. As we delve into the teachings of Methodism, open our hearts and minds to understand what it truly means to be part of this movement. Help us to be receptive to Your guidance and to grow closer to You and each other. May Your Spirit lead us in our discussions and inspire us to live out our faith in community. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you enjoy doing with a group of friends or family?

Key Verses

Matthew 18:20

Hebrews 10:24-25

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

1 Peter 1:15-16

Questions

1. What stood out to you about John Wesley's journey and his impact on Methodism?
2. How does the concept of 'movement' differ from 'denomination' in the context of Methodism?
3. Why is community and meeting together so emphasized in the Methodist tradition?
4. In what ways can we practice relational discipleship in our daily lives?
5. How can we support each other in striving for holiness and spiritual growth?
6. What challenges do you face in being part of a community, and how can we overcome them?
7. How does the idea of being 'free from the dominion of sin' resonate with you?
8. What steps can we take to ensure no one 'falls through the cracks' in our church community?

Life Application

This week, make an intentional effort to connect with someone in your church community. Whether it's joining a small group, attending a church event, or simply reaching out to someone for coffee, take a step towards building deeper relationships and supporting each other in your spiritual journeys.

Key Takeaways

- Methodism is a movement focused on community, discipleship, and holiness.
- John Wesley's life and teachings emphasize the importance of meeting together and supporting each other.
- Relational discipleship is central to the Methodist tradition, encouraging believers to grow together in faith.
- Holiness and striving to be more like Jesus are key goals for Methodists.

- Being part of a community helps alleviate suffering and provides support in times of need.

Ending Prayer

Lord, we thank You for the time we've spent together today. As we go our separate ways, help us to carry the lessons we've learned into our daily lives. May we be a community that reflects Your love and grace, supporting each other in our pursuit of holiness. Guide us in our efforts to be more like You and to bring others into Your fold. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.