



Surrendering Your Rights

Ice Breaker: What television or book character do you most relate to?

Read: Matthew 5:38-48

Pastor Jason started with a warning that this message was not counter cultural, but rather, counter human. He reminded us that the potential to be offended was high!

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Pastor Jason challenged us that the change in our minds cannot come through changing a nation. It starts in the minds of believers. We have to choose to be transformed in OUR OWN mind, not to try to convict and change the minds of others. Pastor even challenged us to look at our own world views critically and examine if our theology is biblical or informed by being “American.”

Surrender Your Rights

1. Surrender the right to be treated with **dignity**.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.”

Think about it: Revenge is what Jesus is addressing in our hearts. Consider the forms that revenge takes.

Discuss:

- Are you one who quickly seeks to get revenge? Do you tend to shut down someone who has an opposing viewpoint?
- Jason challenged us to hold our tongue and not reply when we are offended. What does it look like when you do this well? How could you improve in this area?

Think about it: The one thing that Pastor Jason wanted us to take away from the sermon, if we got nothing else, was this statement: *“As Christians marked by Jesus, how we react to those who insult us is not based on who they are and what they have done. It is based on who we are and what Christ has done for us.”* Take some time to process this together.

Discuss:

- How does your identity in Christ inform the way you respond to others?
- How does your identity in Christ inform your politics?
- How does your identity in Christ influence your experience as an American citizen?

Proverbs 19:11 (NIV) - “A person’s wisdom yields patience; it is to one’s glory to overlook an offense.”

Think about it: If you really want to live a life that’s worth something, don’t react. Don’t poke back.

Take some time to self-reflect and pray:

After all of this challenge, how is your heart?

Father, please help us to view the world around us through your eyes. Help us to see those that disagree with us as your image bearers. Help us to treat others as YOU would treat them. Show us your ways Lord! We cannot turn the other cheek without the empowering of your Holy Spirit. Help us to control our reactions. Help us to represent you well. When we face those who insult us, help us to walk in your spirit, not our flesh. In the name of Jesus, Amen.