

Message Series: Fight club

Message Title: Put away the sword

Key Scripture:

Matthew 26:47–56

Other Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 10:3–5, Acts 7:59–60, 8:1

Theme

Fight Club. You do not talk about Fight club. Every year we teach upon varying aspects of relationships and as the church we do need to talk about it! This is a two part teach, where we all need to learn how to deal with conflict, or aggression, in healthy ways. Moreover, we cannot avoid conflict, abusiveness, trouble, persecution, or the like, Jesus said it is going to happen! In a world of war, aggressive speech and violent reactions, can we as Christians witness in contrast to the behaviour that the world exhibits?

Message Summary

We can feel as Christians as easy targets, there is a sense that the same tolerances and rules don't apply to us. The world is always going to be the world and we are the church! There will always be Judases, Mobs, and Officials and Jesus sets how to react to each, how not to create echo chambers, and how to 'put away the sword.' Can we truly hold to a practice of non violence in the world and be heard? It really is down to what, and whom, you believe you are fighting for.

Whole Group Questions

- Think & Talk: Shouldn't Christians state their case more assertively?
- How do you handle conflict? What principles do you follow?
- How am I like or not like God in my nature?

How does applying this message affect our:

Fellowship – experiencing healthy relationships with other people

Conflict arises from time to time. Feeling offended, or in disagreement, is not exclusive to the world, and the church is not exempt. We should deal with it by following the Bible's examples and principles. Furthermore, we are already called to love not only those who love us, nor, get bitter when people do not listen. How we choose to respond can create stronger Christian relationships. So how are we doing in this?

Discipleship – growing in Christ both cognitively and experientially

Stop and think before reacting even to an opinion or position that is in conflict with your own.

Ministry – Discovering and using our God-given gifts and abilities

Let love lead the way. How can you love someone this week?

Evangelism – Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with unbelievers

Believe for the best in anyone! Who is the person you can love that God sees even when you are under persecution from them? Every Saul could become a Paul!

Worship – Surrendering our heart and life to Christ on an ongoing basis

Jesus is our true example. What a Saviour, what a Lord! Express your worship to Him.