

Who R We?

“The Church: it’s not just about a transaction...it’s about transformation.”

What is “church”?

- A community created and shaped by the gospel.

“...In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.” (Colossians 1:6)

“‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’” (Mark 1:15).

A Community of Transformation...

“Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory... will not the ministry of the Spirit be more glorious?”

If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious... how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

And if what was transitory came with glory... how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! (2 Corinthians 3:7-9,11)

“Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:12-18)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are the first thoughts or experiences that come to your mind when you think about “church”?
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:7-18. In this passage, Paul is contrasting two covenants—the Old Covenant, or Old Testament law, and the New Covenant, which is made possible through the work of Christ. How does he compare and contrast these two ways of engaging God? Why is the New Covenant better?
- Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. What does it mean to say that the church should be a “community of transformation”?
- Paul describes followers of Christ as people with “unveiled faces.” What does this mean in terms of your relationship with God? In terms of your relationships with others?
- If we take this theme of transformation seriously, how does it affect the way you participate in the Hershey Free Church?