

Sermon Notes

Thanksgiving

A Distinctive Feature of a Christian

Christian Sanich, 11/27/2016

Text sermon questions, during the sermon, to (602) 824-8030

Thanksgiving should be a regular part of our conversations.

Ephesians 5:19-21, conversations with Christians

Ephesians 5:4, conversations even with non-Christians

(suggested reading, 1 Peter 3:14-16)

Thanksgiving should be a regular part of our prayers.

Colossians 4:2

Philippians 4:6

Give thanks before a meal.

(Matt. 15:36, John 6:11, Luke 22:17-19, 1 Cor. 10:30-31, Acts 27:35)

Recognize God as one who provides for you.

(Matthew 6:11, 6:25-34)

Some specific things Jesus or the apostle Paul gave thanks for:

- God answering prayer
- People having faith in God and for them loving others
- People being saved
- Christians who had done financial giving to God's causes

Give thanks in worship.

(Colossians 3:16, Revelation 4:9, 7:12, 11:17)

Whatever you do, in everything, give thanks.

Colossians 3:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Are you giving thanks regularly, no matter what's going on?

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Application questions for 11/27/16 sermon

Thanksgiving: A Distinctive Feature of a Christian

Do you feel like you are super thankful to God? If so, how is that expressed from you?

Think about your conversations and thoughts in the past 24 hours. Which was more dominant, thankfulness or complaints?

The things you are thankful to God for, do you regularly express those in conversations with other people? Based on the sermon, do you think that needs to increase?

Ephesians 5:4 gives a list of bad things people normally talk about that Christians are supposed to replace with thanksgiving. Explain how you could see yourself expressing thanksgiving in a conversation, whether in conversation with Christians, or even non-Christians.

Do you regularly thank God as part of your prayers? If not, how can you get in the habit of regularly thanking God as part of your prayers??

Why do you think praying before meals is necessary, or maybe just a good idea?

Are you in the habit of praying before meals? If so, why do you do it? Are your prayers before meals serious prayers of thanksgiving, or just something you have felt is a religious obligation?

If praying before meals has not been a habit, is that something you want to change? If you start making that a habit, what might you have to be cautious of?

1 Thessalonians 5:18 instructs, "In everything give thanks." (Side notes: It doesn't say for everything.) How can you be thankful when things are bad in your life?

Whatever answers were given to the last question, do you believe the things that were shared can really help you be thankful even when things are bad in your life? Why or why not?

(Make sure so make it to this question, and try to have everyone answer.)

What are you going to do to be expressing thankfulness into your everyday life? Some things you may have talked about in this discussion, others you may not have. Even if you have mentioned the ways through other answers in this discussion, summarize now what you plan to do.

Bonus: What did you learn about giving thanks that you didn't know before?