

Several months ago I was at a restaurant with our young children. The server was a male who was acting feminine; he had long hair, painted nails, and spoke in a very high voice. My 5 year old was confused and asked if that person was a boy or a girl. I gently explained that some people are confused about who God made them and we proceeded to immediately pray for that young man. Although I would prefer not to broach such subjects with my young children, the reality is that we cannot be sheltered from the world. We run into the reality of the fallen world at every turn.

Reading the news and seeing what's going on in the world is frightening, infuriating, and depressing. I don't know about you, but sometimes I want to crawl into my safe Christian bubble and never leave. There is good news though: God isn't surprised or unprepared for this!

Growing stronger with other Christians is healthy. Hebrews 10:25 tells us to *"not give up meeting together... but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day draw near."* God made the church to be relational: we build each other up, hold each other accountable, and learn more about Him together. Let's get together in our small groups, meet on Sunday, and enjoy fellowship with other believers. However, we still live in this world and have to figure out how to do so while bringing glory to God.

Being uncomfortable here on earth is natural for Christians because it is not our home. Philippians 3:20 says, *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."*

So, although we live here and are surrounded by things and people that do not glorify God, let's *"set our minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (Colossians 3:2)"* In the midst of discouraging times, remember to turn to the Lord in prayer and read His word – that is the only way to be encouraged. God promises us peace by reminding us that He is the Victor!

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33*

This week when you read the headlines, are at the grocery store, your neighborhood HOA meeting, or the gym, and interact with those who haven't met Jesus yet, let's remember Who wins in the end! With the Lord's help, let's shine His light in this very dark world.

Your women's ministry team

Karen, Michele, Kelli, Lori, Andrea, Jody, Daryn, Cindy, Laurie, Joan and Linda

