

Monday Quotes



Grain

“The idea of aligning ourselves in that whole stream of witnesses, doing this out of profound Christian faith, is a great sign of hope.” –Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda

Field

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ²⁰“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message... John 17:11-14 & 20

Thoughts

A few years ago, a high school teacher friend talked about how surprised she was that her second career student teacher struggled so much with her confidence. She wondered about what might have happened in her former job. What could have chipped away at her? I recalled a pastor using the same language when discussing a team ministry. He claimed that one of the pastors “chipped away” at the other clergy on staff.

What has worn us down? We probably have easy answers in reference to the last 14 months. What about in relationship to our values living in this world?

Jesus prayed for God to protect the disciples and future followers from the world. In some places, he seems to refer to the “world” as humankind, but in others, as societal forces that reject God’s love.

I’m glad Jesus used a broad word such as “world” to point to what was oppressive. The specifics of what opposes God’s love and how we need to respond change. In our generation, for example, we need to hear words such as, “black lives matter,” not only to counter violence, but layers of societal messages that can chip away at people.

In the prayer overheard, Jesus lifted the disciples and future generations into the same communion of love and forgiveness he shared throughout his life. As part of the stream of witnesses in the world, we are alert to new ways to show love to our neighbor in public. Weariness from how our values have clashed with the world will be replaced by joy in turning to Christ. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy