

CHEMISTRY

WEEK 2 – INSIDE

EASTER INVITES

In a recent study by Lifeway Research...

39% of people said they were **planning to attend** an Easter service.

41% of people surveyed said they **were not planning** to attend church at Easter.

20% of those surveyed **were unsure** if they would attend.

"Christians who automatically attend church on Easter should be mindful of their many friends, neighbors, and family members who haven't ruled out the idea of attending. Based on our research, **a personal invitation** is what would make a difference to them." Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research

How to give a good invitation...

Level One – Social Media (Hashtag **#EASTERatVORTEX**)

Level Two – Phone Call or Text Message

Level Three – Personal Invitation

Level Four – Personal Invitation with Accommodations

A NEW AMEN

If you grew up in church, you often heard people yell at the speaker during the message. What was the word you heard most often being yelled?

AMEN – First Appears: Deut. 27:15-26 **"Then all the people will say, "Amen!"**

CHURCH CULTURE:

We want our church to be the most natural place for you to encounter God.

Natural – Conversational Messages / Supermarket or Dinner

The New Amen...

First... **We are phone-friendly church.** Silence, but... Your bible is on your phone!

The "new amen" is sharing a meaningful quote from the message through your Social Media networks.

Social Media is a supplement to connection, but not actual connection itself.

GETTING IT RIGHT: CHEMISTRY AND CONNECTION

1. Good chemistry is about **balance**. (Laws of Conservation of Mass)

- Often, we don't want balance, we want symmetry.
- My greatest relationships have been with people who were very **different**.
- Example: My greatest friends have always been funny.

2. Balance cultivates **connectivity**.

- It's comfortable to be around people that are like us, but that comfort doesn't cultivate connection. (tribalism)
- Our lives are richer when we live in the **tension** that comes from the **balance** of those who are **different** than us.

3. **Connection** is at the heart of God's desire for us.

- God wants us to live connected to others. (not just people like us)
- God wants us to be connected to Him.
- NEXT TWO WEEKS...
- But... God wants us to live with a deep connection to our authentic self.

TEXT – MATTHEW 22

"Hearing that Jesus had **silenced** the **Sadducees**, the **Pharisees** got together."

"One of them, an expert in the law, **tested him** with this question: "Teacher, which is the **greatest commandment** in the Law?"

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God **with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**' This is the first and greatest commandment.

"And the second is like it: 'Love your **neighbor as yourself.**' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" Matthew 22:34-40

#1 – Jesus **balances** the equation of love.

"Love the Lord your God **with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**" Duet. 6:5

#2 – It's **impossible** to love **others** if you don't love **yourself**.

"Love your **neighbor as yourself.**" (Lev. 19:18)

SELF CARE VS. SELFISHNESS

There's a critical difference between self-love and selfishness.

1. Taking care of yourself isn't selfish. It's necessary.

- You can't give others what you don't have.

2. Selfishness is self-serving. Self-care is a part of loving others.

- JOY – Jesus, Others, You... Not exactly healthy.
- JESUS is FIRST... but following Him will lead to taking care of us (Sabbath)

3. Selfishness builds a false self. Self-care connects us to our authentic self.

- Our view of our self sets the target that we are living towards.
 - **False Self** – A version of ourselves built from sinful, broken perspective
 - **Authentic Self** – The version of ourselves build from God's view of us
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CONNECTING TO OUR AUTHENTIC SELF

1. We must live with **balance** while taking care of ourselves and others.

- This is a tension you must choose to live in and navigate.
- Our authentic self was created to make an eternal difference in the lives of others, but you can't do that well without taking care of yourself.

2. We must let the **expectations** of God supersede the **demands** of men.

- Honestly: What matters more to you?
- **We need to learn to use a simple, powerful word... No.**

3. We must **commit** ourselves to spiritual, emotional, and physical **discipline**.

- There is no greater issue in our lives than discipline.
- **Discipline unlocks your God-given potential and connects you to the life God designed for you to live.**
- **Discipline means "Training to Follow".** (Coaching – Sound of Voice)

4. We must **choose** to let God **define** our self, not the emotions, opinions, or desires of others or ourselves.

- Some of us feel empty because we've been trying to connect with a version of ourselves that is fake and doesn't really exist.
- Jesus purchased your right to connect with the person God designed you to be.