

Brave Church/Hard Topics, 9/22: Safe Spaces / Brave Spaces

The chat log of the discussion. NOTE: Names have been removed for privacy.

Reading: Acts 2:1-12.

Share a word, phrase, or concept that stood out to you

"how is this possible?!"

hear/hearing

connection

all of them

a new confusion

What does this mean?

all hearing about the power of God in their own language

all heard native tongues

a lot of different people/different languages

Everyone could hear and understand what was being said, no matter where they came from

How might it guide how we become a community over these sessions?

They still understood each other, even w/ different native tongues

To hear different voices in this group, need to listen carefully

not only hearing but understanding - not confrontational

the commonality that they had.

for us, remembering the commonalities that we have

everyone heard in their own language - the same message to each of them, but they heard the message meant for them

not just about hearing, but also speak with a goal so person can hear it

need to speak in a way that they can hear, understand, be respectful

understand ,but not necessarily agree

before I speak, I want to feel confident about my own position... not always confident about going back and forth

Discussion questions on safe spaces and brave spaces:

- In what ways do you feel safe in your current faith community [Grace]?
- In what ways do you feel encouraged to step into a brave space to engage in respectful, loving dialogue?
- In what ways do you feel unsafe in sharing your perspective?

When Presbytery was first dealing w/ ordination of homosexual people, hospice was dealing with how to minister to young men dying of AIDS. A hard time. While Grace didn't deal w/ AIDS, had an intense study wrestling w/ homosexuality.

Long time member of Grace, lot of small groups. Feel safe in community, even if we don't talk about it.

Was once judgmental w/ people w/ AIDS, until someone close contracted AIDS for some reason other than homosexuality.

Unsafe areas: when you discover your own thinking disagrees w/ the Bible (ex: homosexuality). How do you get around w/ that question?

Learned at young age not to make judgments about people based on whatever information was out there. Learn to educate myself, not judge, be open and caring. Not always easy.

Felt unsafe - getting into discussions about what particular parts of the Bible mean, how you interpret what things mean? How you should approach teaching the faith. Didn't sit well w/ people w/ authority, power. This can sometimes cause conflict

Find the ministers welcoming, in line w/ mission but not necessarily the theology

unsafe - part my own doing. Came into Grace excited, could be authentic. Maybe took some people by surprise. Stuck with Grace - because God brought me here for a reason.

God has put me in a place I don't understand or think I deserve, but am here anyway. Taught me there are certain behaviors we can't control. It has taught me to be more accepting of other people's point of view.

Comments on Covenant Rules:

#3 - it is easy to come up w/ easy solutions, but hard questions require hard solutions

#3 - how might this play out? "Do you mind if we engage in that a little bit or would you rather sit that out right now."

Giving feedback in general: ask if they're open to receive feedback. If not in the place to take it, can set up another time. Allowing them a chance to not now.

"Do you mind if I engage with you on that?"