



ITS A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD

MESSAGE SERIES
JULY 25 - AUGUST 16

MAD AT US

This series is to help us learn how to release our anger and find the peace that God offers us.

OPENING QUESTIONS

Cats or dogs?

Brewers or Packers?

Family or Friends?

KEY POINTS – take a minute to review the key points from this weekend’s message

1. It’s easy, even natural, to draw lines and separate into us vs. them.
2. “You should never make a point at the expense of making a Difference”.
3. Your convictions should lead not to relational damage, but to treating people with gentleness and respect, even people you disagree with (“them”)
4. We should be showing others that same love, mercy and grace given to us.
5. Don’t win the argument and lose the person.
6. Living on mission includes remembering that we may be the only reflection of Jesus that a person experiences and we may be the only person with an opportunity to share the gospel with them.
7. May your opinion of others pale in comparison to your love for others.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THIS MESSAGE: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, Colossians 4:5-6, Matthew 9:11, Matt 5:13, Proverbs 15:1, 1 Peter 3:15, Philippians 2:14-16

RESPOND

Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend’s message that stuck with you. Give a brief reason for why these things stuck with you.”

1. Who is the “them” for you? What type of person “annoys you,” “gets under your skin” or “brings out the worst in you?”

2. Read 1 Cor 5:17-20

What does it look like to you to be Christ's ambassador? How are you doing?

Where have you seen God recreate in you a spirit of goodwill, gentleness and grace when interacting with people, especially, your "them?"

3. Col 4:5-6 instructs us to be wise in our interactions and states our conversations should be seasoned with salt. But sometimes the wisest choice is to be silent.

"Whoever loves a quarrel loves sin." Proverbs 17:19

"Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife." Proverbs 26:20-21

Do you struggle with distinguishing between essential truths worth contending for and secondary or nonessential issues? When is it hard for you to "not take the bait?"

Can you identify a trigger? Defending yourself? Being right? Pride? Winning? Not seeming weak? Or do you just tend to argue?

APPLY (choose one or both)

Action

Share a meal with a "them" this week and practice goodwill, gentleness and grace." Prepare in advance. Remember your identify and the identity of "them" in God's eyes. Think of some affirmations ahead of time. Prepare some good questions that demonstrate your care and respect.

Reflection

The next time you are tempted to mentally designate someone as "them," what do you want to remember? What concept from this message do you want to remember in your next interaction with "them?" Can you find 15 minutes of solitude this week to think about these things you want to remember, pray and allow God to continue to transform your heart? (For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. Luke 6:45)

PRAY