

the  Venues
Go Deep

Does the Church Qualify as a Shelter?
9.17.17

What were you afraid of as a kid?

When I am afraid, to feel safe, I _____.

1. What metaphor best describes your experience with the church?

What's one thing you feel you can't say or express in church?

How much freedom did you have to ask questions in church?

One statement in our "What We Believe" list is this: "We believe mystery, ambiguity, doubt, and questioning make us better and stronger people."

Do you agree or disagree with that statement?

2. What metaphors does Jesus use? Check out Matthew 9:12-13

What metaphor do you see in this passage?

What message is Jesus trying to communicate with this metaphor?

How is the church to be like a hospital?

Why are people so hesitant to admit their "sickness" in church?

Charles Swindoll, a well-known author and pastor wrote, "Churches need to be less like national shrines and more like local bars...less like untouchable cathedrals and more like well-used hospitals, places to bleed in rather than monuments to look at...places where you can take your mask off and let your hair down...places where you can have your wounds dressed."

Which words used by Swindoll describe your church experience?

Have you ever driven into the church parking lot and said to the person in the car with you before getting out, "Well, let's put on our happy church faces and go in!"?

Why do we feel the need to wear a mask to church?

Read Psalm 31:1-2

What was David afraid of?

How does the fear of shame play into your hesitancy to be honest and transparent in church?

3. Can we hang “The New Colossus” on the door of The Venues?

“The New Colossus” is the poem written by Emma Lazarus that is engraved in a plaque on the base of the Statue of Liberty.

What message is Ms Lazarus trying to communicate?

Would that inscription be appropriate on a sign in front of The Venues? Your home? Your heart?