**The ~~Comfort~~ Zone** | SLIDES & NOTES

Shane Gage | 05.27.18

**[ Use title slide from Christy ]** **[ + use Christy’s slide template ]**

[ note: I’m beginning with this random quote… it’ll come up quick ]

**SLIDE Everyone’s Awkwardness Shines Brighter in an Elevator**

When things get awkward / uncomfortable at church . . .

But God calls us to be uncomfortable at times … Ex: Jonah …

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. - Galatians 2:20 **SLIDE**

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. - Mark 8:34 **SLIDE**

**1) Uncomfortable Worship** **SLIDE**

(I will be **referring** to various verses in Romans 12 - - **no** slide.)

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, **2**then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. **3**Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, **4**not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

**5**In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus … - Philippians 2:1-5 **SLIDES**

**Photo: iChurch - Where it’s all about me! SLIDE**

Worship is not about me, or my preferred “worship experience.”

In worship, GOD is the audience, and it is for HIS glory and praise!

Stretch beyond your comfort zone: **SLIDE**

* Get into worship!

For example: Hand Raising …

**TIM HAWKINS HAND RAISING VIDEO . . .**

More on hand raising, and on kneeling.

 (Shane will raise hands, then KNEEL at front of stage…)

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord. - Psalm 134:2

**SLIDE**

*(Note – Shane will set up the next verse with the context/story first…)*

Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!”

 Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. - Nehemiah 8:6 **SLIDE**

Stretch beyond your comfort zone: **SLIDE**

* Get into worship!
* Make the most of prayer time

**2) Uncomfortable Authority** **SLIDE**

We don’t like to submit to authority . . .

The “religious disease” of our age – God wants me to be happy …

But God desires MORE than that!

* God wants a SAY in our lives, to INTERFERE …
* But we want the SAVIOR, but not the LORD, etc …

[ **note** – I will **paraphrase** some of verses 5-8, then I will read: ]

**9**Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
    and gave him the name that is above every name,
**10**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
**11**and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
    to the glory of God the Father. - Philippians 2:9-11 **SLIDE**

[ **note** – I will then **paraphrase** / **summarize** verses from Colossians 1 ]

 **NO** **SLIDE**

Are we receptive to the Lord’s authority in our lives, or resistant?

**3) Uncomfortable Community** **SLIDE**

Biblical community / unity is crucial, and a powerful witness.

But it is not always easy – and unity does not equal uniformity.

God doesn’t give us the community we want, but the one we NEED.

Most important time to go to Worship / Connection Group is . . .

 … When we don’t **want** to.

We shy away from connection and community when we need it most.

But we need to reach out, take a step, ask for help when needed.

Growing deeper in community requires **intentional** action …

**Community Action Points: SLIDE** (build)

* Join a Connection Group
* Connect with one another mid-week
* Help host your group
* Invite others
* Help us start a new group
* GO serve together as a group

Let’s GO for it / If you need to talk to someone . . .

Wrapping up . . .

**1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**3**For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **4**For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5**so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. - Romans 12:1-5 **SLIDE**

**Prayer** to close message . . .