

CONTAGEOUS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY!

Scripture Passage Matthew 28:16-20

“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. The Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

I. CONTAGEOUS

con·ta·gious (kn-tjz)

adj.

1. Of or relating to contagion.
2. Transmissible by direct or indirect contact; communicable: *a contagious disease*.
3. Capable of transmitting disease; carrying a disease: *stayed at home until he was no longer contagious*.
4. Spreading or tending to spread from one to another; infectious: *a contagious smile*.

The word contagious is usually associated with what? Disease

When my kids were young they gave each other everything! One would get a disease and spread it to everyone else.

Other things that are contagious:

1. Yawns
2. Fear
3. Rumor and gossip

1. A SMILE.

Smiling is Contagious

Smiling is contagious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at

me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner,
and someone saw my grin -
When he smiled I
realized, I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth,
A single smile, just like mine,
could travel round the earth.
So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected -
Let's start an epidemic quick
and get the world infected !!!

2. LAUGHTER

- Have you ever laughed until your gut hurt?
- Brad Stein Comedian.
- Did you know there are laugh clubs in America? It's so good for you!

3. ACTS OF KINDNESS

* Man walking in the rain by my house.

- Most of us naturally gravitate to the DUMPS in our conversations.
- How about changing the tide and deciding to have a MT. EVEREST MENTALITY. Become an agent in the secret army of

4. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

5. UNCONDITIONAL LOVE IS CONTAGIOUS! LOVE PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE.

6. A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

We've got Jesus! And when you got Jesus you have an INFECTION THAT POINTS IN A DIRECTION! On prophet describes it as FIRE SHUT UP IN MY BONES!

Everywhere we go, everyone we touch should be INFECTED by the Jesus bug! Listen, he has given us his Word that he will be with us in anything we face in this life. He has given us a CERTAIN hope that forever we will be with him in heaven when we die. He has given us the possibility of having a happy, healthy enjoyable life here and now. If that doesn't excite you, you must be sick or dead! And when you get a hold of that kind of Joy, it leaks out of you and INFECTS everyone you touch. You become the TYPHOID MARY in the spiritual realm delivering HOPE to the hopeless!

In essence the GREAT commission tells us to GO INFECT THE WORLD with the LOVE BUG! Give them a virus that will change and re arrange their lives.

II. CHRISTIAN

Two thousand years ago a bearded man wearing sandals and a tunic walked the earth claiming to be the Son of God. His name was Jesus Christ. And from his life two branches of thought have emerged.

TWO MEANINGS

1. Social Club Christianity

- * I adopt the name. In fact it feels good to call myself a Christian.
- * This comes with a membership into a club.
- * I adopt a set of rules; this is what my faith is all about. If I follow the rules I am in. If not I am ridiculed and definitely on the outside.
- * The building I have been a part of constructing is extremely important. This is where the club meets weekly. This is the place it all happens. Certain people have been hired. Their job is to make me feel good; agree with what I already believe and to occasionally remind me of the many rules I must follow.
- * I own stock in the pew I sit in. I give money weekly to ensure I can reserve this place and am offended if anyone sits there. If they want their seat they can pay for it like I do.
- * During our meetings I participate and do things that make me feel Christian. My week would not be the same without them.
- * My obligation is for 1 hour on a Sunday morning. It's a small price to pay to keep my membership. Attendance, Communion, Giving Money have to be big time bargaining chips on Judgment day.
- * It's like every thing I do has a point value and I must earn my way to heaven by gaining points of favor with God.
- * I join organizations within the club; my work in these organizations keeps me busy, ensures my place in the club and again makes me feel Christian.
- * All of this makes me feel safe, it keeps life clean, I can mind my own business, do the requirements, and not have to become involved with the messiness of people's lives.
- * I don't often involve myself with people or situations that make me feel challenged, or uncomfortable. For the most part I have to preserve my Christianity by only associating with those who believe like I do.

* I'm not here to grow the club. I think we are fine just the way we are. In fact, I believe if we were an open group, radicals with different ideas would come in and threaten my security. It wouldn't be long before they would present some wild ideas that would eventually cause me to lose my pew spot. Can't have that! I AM CHRISTIAN!

FOLLOWER OF CHRIST

* By faith I become a believer in the person Jesus Christ and in doing so join a fellowship of believers that has been going on since Christ walked the earth.

* I learn all I can about the person Jesus Christ, so I can become more like him in word, deed and thought.

* I surrender to him, and pledge to do my best to follow him no matter what that means. I open up my mind, my heart, my will, my emotions, my whole life and let him dictate to me where I should go, what I should do, the things in my life I must deal with, whom I must minister to.

* I enter into a fellowship of the suffering and begin to observe all the messiness life can offer as I follow him to meet tax collectors, prostitutes, murderers, bums on the street, families in distress, pregnant teenagers, drug addicts, the blind, the mute, the sick and afflicted, the down and out, the poor, the needy, the hopeless.

* This doesn't come with a club, a pew, a building, a list of things to do, a certain set of rules and regulations. It comes with a bending of my will, a cross, a broken heart, dirty hands, pain, crisis, tragedy, surrender!

* See literally anyone can call themselves a CHRISTIAN. But Oh.....to be a follower of Christ is a whole new ball game. This will cost you your heart, your time, your energy, your money, your.....life.

* Keep this in mind

-The Name Christian can never save you – Christ Does!

-The Name Christian will not give you life, hope, and purpose in this life.....Christ does.

-The Name Christian will not prepare you for heaven and take you there some day! It is only Christ who can do that.

So at First United, how do you think we should define CHRISTIAN?

COMMUNITY (Come Unity)

Main Entry: com·mu·ni·ty

1 : a unified body of individuals: as a : STATE, COMMONWEALTH b : the people with common interests living in a particular area; broadly : the area itself <the problems of a large community> c : an interacting population of various kinds of individuals (as species) in a common location d : a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society <a community of retired persons> e : a group linked by a common policy f : a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests <the international community> g :

a body of persons of common and especially professional interests scattered through a larger society
<the academic community>

2 : society at large

3 a : joint ownership or participation <community of goods> b : common character : LIKENESS
<community of interests> c : social activity : FELLOWSHIP d : a social state or condition

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Robert Fulghum's whimsical book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* (1986):

Share everything.

Play fair.

Don't hit people.

Put things back where you found them.

Clean up your own mess.

Don't take things that aren't yours.

Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody, a lesson our President needs to learn better.

Wash your hands before you eat.

Flush.

Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.

A. We know each other. This is base line.

B. We have many things in common.

Acts 2:42-47

42They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

C. We work together to meet needs inside and outside our community. The idea represents many hands, one heart!

D. We work together, side by side, arm in arm, hand in hand for Jesus sake.

CONTAGIOUS.....CHRISTCENTERED.....COMMUNITY!