

Living Life Well- Winning people

Proverbs 11:29

**The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
And he who wins souls is wise.**

Before we win anyone to Christ, we have to learn to win them to yourself. Like always attracts like.

We have in this world a deep need in the heart of man. The need to be needed. People need people. People need others to interact with.

The flip side of this powerful proverb is that 'Fools loose or scatter people'. What sort of things are foolish and cause most people to run? Offence, grief, causing problems, bad mouthed language, control, manipulation whether it be emotional or verbal. Now some of these things require help. While we have a group of people that exists with the gift of mercy and thus they can deal with all of this and love to deal with it the majority of us don't have a dominant mercy gift, thus when presented with any problems like this we want to run from the person.

These sorts of issues cause us to run.

Proverbs 11:29 God has called us to win people. To have characteristics which cause people to run towards us not away from us.

Winning people to ourselves is part of the calling of every Christian.

Something which goes against this is being a 'killjoy'.

Christians are sometimes the biggest 'killjoys' – the divine wet blanket. We are not here to kill the joy we are here to introduce people to real joy. **We are not here to make people into something we are here to introduce people to someone.**

We always introduce people we love hanging around with. **As Christians our call is not to change people but to introduce them to a person who can help them change.**

I believe each and every Christian needs to have a list for winning people. This list of some sorts which should contain no more than 3 people. Some of us are able to deal with more than this but 3 is normally a good number. This list is for people we are

- a. praying for that they get to meet Jesus
- b. trying to win to Christ
- c. Developing a friendship with, with the view to introducing them to our best friend.

At the House we put events on with the primary purpose of 'winning people'. Special morning teas are not just for us to have a good coffee and cake. They are designed to 'win people'. 50+ is not just for some people who are a little older than others to have a good time, the events are planned to 'win people'. The Core is not just for young people to have a safe environment for fellowship but at its very heart is 'winning people'. Our Music is not just about meeting our needs for fellowship with God it's about 'winning people'. The church building is not just a place for us to meet, its for winning people. Working bees are not just about doing something to the House, they contain at their heart the essence of winning people.

We do all of this because we love winning people.

All souls are madly loved by God. We are engaged in the winning of people. It's a holy purpose.

Here are some things which will help you win people for Christ.

1. Loose Prejudice

A prejudice is a view in our head about something that causes us to act, think or speak a certain way.

I'm not prejudiced?

Yes, I agree none of us are until we hear certain words. Free Masons, Mormons, Klu Klux Klan, Israel, Asians, wizard, Moslems, mystic, Tele-evangelist, car salesman, Indian phone callers, Victorians. Each of us carry inside of us prejudices. Some are there for all sorts of varying reasons.

John 4:3-35 we find the story of Jesus traveling through a place called Samaria. Now the Jews hated the Samaritans with a vengeance. Ezra had stopped inter-marriages because the Jewish people wanted a pure stock of people. Jesus is a Jewish Rabbi who goes through Samaria. Maybe God spoke to him?

Jonah had a view in his head, a prejudice about Ninevah – a violent, wicked degrading people. Prejudices are powerful in driving our actions. Jonah ran from the word of God. Jonah got on a boat. Jonah asked to be thrown overboard. Jonah wanted to die rather than face his prejudice.

Getting back to Jesus walking through Samaria. Sometimes our prejudices about people are because we don't understand them. We just don't get it why they are what they are. **BUT GOD knows why people are the way they are.**

V9 Jesus was breaking through walls of prejudice just talking with this person, even just being with this person. **But that willingness to push**

past prejudice was the very hinge upon which hung the salvation of that town.

When we choose to place ourselves in places we know we should be the power of God comes upon us. It gives us wisdom. When we take the place of 'winning people' wisdom flows. We get God's viewpoint on the matter. Wisdom flows and people are won.

2. Loose condemnation.

People don't need to be told what they have done wrong all the time they need to meet the one who can help them fix their lives.

This woman at the well had issues, She was a prostitute a low life. But Jesus knew what her real need was to come to know the one she was next too. He choose not to condemn her but introduce her to life.

We need to build an atmosphere around us of /'no condemnation'. We don't want to impute people's sins on them. That's not our role. Our role is to introduce people to Jesus.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. In Christ we are reconciling, joining introducing the world the God the creator.

This means we forgive people before they say sorry not after.

3. We believe in people.

Even if they are a hopeless failure we believe in them. God believed in us.

Michaelango was asked one day what is was doing as he chipped away at a great big hunk of formless marble. 'I'm trying to release the angel in this block of marble'.

When we win people we are releasing something inside of them that will bring great pleasure to them and to others.

4. Be interested in People – LISTEN.

5. Empathise with people

This means getting on the same page as people. The Bible calls this being all things to all men.

6. smile

Do you know that woman smile more than men- especially when they are talking.

I love this old ancient Chinese proverb, "man without smile should not open shop".

7. Agree with people – don't be a contradictory person who disagrees all the time. Its not about you just expressing your view its about winning people.
8. Include people in your world. – this is something many people in this church do really well. They have people over or spend time with people.
9. Respect people – use titles. Respect their achievements, attainments their educational qualifications. Don't rubbish them.

Christ wants us to take what we love about our church and share it with others. We are in the process of winning to Christ. We do that be being raving fans about what we do and following the above mentioned easy actions.

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