

# Be Contagious, You Make the Difference

## Living Out Your Faith in Uncertain Times

**2 Corinthians 5:11-21**

People \_\_\_\_\_ by the Gospel

*men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.* **John 3:19**

The problem is many believers make Christianity \_\_\_\_\_

“Its heaven for climate, but its hell for company.” —Mark Twain

**Jesus calls believers to be attractive**

*“You are the salt of the earth”*

*“You are the light of the world”* **Matthew 5:14-16**

*so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.*

**Titus 2:10**

**Four Words that help make Christians**

**more attractively contagious in an Uncertain World.**

1. T \_\_\_\_\_

***We should be transparent about our \_\_\_\_\_ to evangelize***

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.* **2 Corinthians 5:20**

*Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.* **2 Corinthians 5:11**

**Two obvious reasons to share Christ**

- We are commanded to do it—Matthew 28:19
- It is human nature to share truly good news

*“we know what it is to fear the Lord”*

- Cures us of the guilt of sin
- Promises us eternal life
- Gives us an ultimate purpose in life

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.* **2 Corinthians 5:14**

**Paul's testimony before King Agrippa** Acts 25:23 — Acts 26:1-32

*We're not saying this to make ourselves look good to you. We just thought it would make you feel good, proud even, that we're on your side and not just nice to your face as so many people are.* **2 Corinthians 5:12** (The Message)

**2. I \_\_\_\_\_**

***We have to be intense in our effort to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord***

*If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all,* **2 Corinthians 5:13-14**

### **Enthusiasm**

“Every great and commanding movement in the annals of the world is due to the triumph of enthusiasm. Nothing great was ever achieved without it.”

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Apathy can only be overcome by enthusiasm and enthusiasm can only be aroused by an ideal which takes the imagination by storm.”

—Arnold Toynbee

Enthusiasm, en theos (Greek) — “dwelling in God”

- Nauseous Jesus—Revelation 3:16
- “*keep your spiritual fervor serving the Lord*” —Romans 12:11
- Paul's intensity before the Governor Festus— Acts 26:24

***If there really is a danger of hellfire at judgment, if there really is a heaven, then we have an obligation to persuade people with intensity.***

**Emotional over the \_\_\_\_\_**

- Jesus wept over Jerusalem's rebellion—Luke 19:41-44
- Paul, “I warned you day and night with tears.”—Acts 20:31

### 3. P \_\_\_\_\_

***We make Christianity contagious if we are perceptive about the \_\_\_\_\_ in people***

*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:16-17*

***How do you see the people with whom you associate regularly? Do you look at the externals? Or do you look at the heart?***

### 4. M \_\_\_\_\_

***We make Christianity attractive if we are \_\_\_\_\_ to our ministry from God***

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 2 Corinthians 5:18-19*

*God was hugging the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them and He is committed to us, this message of reconciliation.*

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19** (Phillips Paraphrase)

*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21*

*And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Corinthians 5:15*

#### **Christ's Ambassador**

- Be transparent in your intent and behavior
- Be intense in your attitude
- Be perceptive of people's possibility for Christ
- Regard Ambassadorship as a ministry of love

Key: offended, unattractive, Transparency, intentions, Intensity, represent, lost, Perceptivity, potential, Ministry, committed