

Like I Give A Care!

There's an old saying that goes something like this...."People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." This goes for what we know about Jesus too. Ouch!

In our busy society it is so easy for people to feel neglected. It is hard to imagine that there are those from small families who have no living parents or siblings checking in on them regularly. Sadly some of these same people have few friends as well. They could be dead for a bit before anyone smelled the stench and even came to check on them.

If busyness were not enough of a problem our culture has taught us political correctness and to not discuss our faith. However I can add an app to my phone and it will readily tell me which neighbors are Democrat and which are Republican and I am encouraged to influence their votes. I wish there was an app which would tell me which ones have already accepted Jesus and which others I still needed to pursue. On the other hand, would I actually make that effort to push out of my comfort zone and truly show God's love if there were such an app?

Actually, it is not just those outside the walls of the church who need to know that we really give a care. I've heard countless stories as I counsel of those who have felt unloved at church. Some never received a call or card in their absence. Others were never included at anything past the church walls. Usually these slights are mere oversights, but they can leave damage for generations.

It is easy to become complacent as we sit in our pews each Sunday and see the empty seats. We fail to realize that coming to church is difficult for some. It can be a reminder of the ex-spouse who used to attend church with them before an affair. Others fear returning to church and the "fifty interrogation questions" coming.

I have had a few clients tell me that they've actually had panic attacks in the parking lot and that it took a few Sundays before they were finally able to finally reach the sanctuary. In some instances people have to battle spouses for permission to attend. Others have to battle every obstacle the enemy sends to stifle attendance- actual spiritual warfare.

It is not always easy to minister to the hurting or to understand their battles, but love can be powerful tool to reach them. In today's vernacular scripture simply tells us that Jesus wants us to truly give a care. John 13:34-35 NIV "A new command I give

you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Jesus does not want us to merely put on our friendly face at church. He expects us to fellowship with others both inside and outside the church throughout the week He expects us to invite those with no way to repay to dinner or to include them in our recreation. He’s not happy when we leave others out and fail to include the so-called loners. Luke 14:12-14 (ESV) illustrates that in The Parable of the Great Banquet....
12 He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers[a] or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Our good intentions do very little when they are not put into actions. Giving a care is literally a matter of HEAVEN or HELL in some instances. Decisions are often made which impact generations to come. As Christians we are commanded to give a care and to let others know that Jesus cares even more. After all, He cared enough to give his life!