

# Christianity it's Not What You Think

## Insiders – Outsiders

### Session 3

**Introduction:** *Daily Bread* ... “Just a Touch”

**Text:** [John 13: 34, 35](#)

<sup>34</sup> So now I am giving you a new commandment: **Love each other**. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my **disciples**.

Some of Jesus last instructions –to his disciples - telling them that he'd be leaving and that where he was going they couldn't follow at this time.

Do you think they paid special attention? They did and were visibly upset – **Thomas got feisty**

Jesus is speaking intimately to his 12 disciples - Look at the those words again ... Is He telling them to love all people or - for the 12 of them to love each other?

It looks like – he is telling them to love each other ... and yet Jesus calls this a **new commandment** ... could that be just for the disciples?

**The message title today is: Insiders – Outsiders**

**Insiders** - People who are followers of Jesus (the church)

**Outsiders** - People who have never accepted Jesus and have no inclination to do so

The past two weeks we heard about the term *Christian*

Scarcely used in the Bible it only appears 3X - never defined yet we all call ourselves Christians

So when someone asks you the question:

- What religion are you?
- Or what church do you belong to,
- Or what is it that you believe?

## What do you tell them?

1 billion 500 million U-Tube /responses to the query: *What is a Christian?*

Examples: Vague

- A Christian is someone who believes in God
- Someone who loves, respects and cares for others
- More of a life style than a religion

The term used in the Bible is **disciple** ... By this shall all men know that you are my **disciples**

What's the difference between a Disciple and a Christian?

According to Andy Stanly

- A Christian: Is what a person believes
- A Disciple: Is what a person does

Outsiders often see Christians as judgmental

How dare we ask them to clean up their lives when we can't even clean up our own?

Do outsiders judge us harshly because they feel we're judging them?

**Jesus set the standard** for his disciples calling it a *New Commandment* : <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my **disciples.**"

But let's not forget about the one that already existed

See [Luke 10: 25- 37](#)

<sup>25</sup> One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup> The man answered, "**You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"**

<sup>28</sup> "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!"

<sup>29</sup>The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” S.B.N.R.

**Parable of the Good Samaritan** (*Jesus must have smiled at this remark*)

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied with a story: “A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road.

<sup>31</sup> “By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. <sup>32</sup> A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side.

<sup>33</sup> “Then a **despised** Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. <sup>34</sup> Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, ‘Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I’ll pay you the next time I’m here.’

<sup>36</sup> “Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?” Jesus asked.

<sup>37</sup> The man replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Then Jesus said, “Yes, now go and do the same.”

**The Parable of the Good Samaritan** – for a Jew was a contradiction in terms

Old American Western movies – Cowboys vs. Indians – The Indians (Native Americans) the phrase was, *the only good Indian is a \_\_\_\_\_ Indian*

That’s how Jews felt about Samaritans – the only good Samaritan is one that’s already buried

They were considered outsiders by Jews and treated terribly

But Jesus cast the Samaritan in the role of the *good guy*

He was the one demonstrating God’s love to a total stranger ...

**Matt 28: 19-20** Jesus final words: *Go and make disciples* (to cause someone to become a learner)

**Why is it that so many outsiders won’t even consider going to church, let alone join one?**

The first church period lasted for 300 years – Hundreds of thousands of people becoming disciples of Jesus

Then something changed ... Roman Emperor Constantine becomes a Christian.

- He ended the persecution of Christians.
- He made Christianity the official religion of Rome (the world)

Sounds great doesn't it? But it wasn't so great

Instead of leveraging God's Love to Outsiders - They leveraged the power of state religion

*Any time the church leverages anything other than love, we go backwards rather than forwards*  
Andy Stanley

*We don't wield the Gospel like a sword against outsiders; we use the good news of the gospel to demonstrate the Love of God. JVM See [John 3:16](#)*

**If we want outsiders to become insiders ... We need to go to them not ask them to come to us!**

- 15% of all Americans practice no religion at all
- NY state ranks 34<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states for people who attend church
- Good news and bad news about atheists - *first the bad news* The number of atheists in the U.S has doubled - The good news It went from 1% to 2%

**Bring the gospel to outsiders by leveraging love – God's love toward them**

Jen and I battled with this – this past summer with friends who are atheists ... they rejected our belief but wanted our friendship ...

Why do we want Outsiders to open their hearts to Jesus Christ?

Because we know he has the power to:

- Heal marriages - Change lives
- Break addictions
- Restore children and parent relationships
- Give life and purpose to lives
- Restore finances
- To experience freedom from a self absorbed life style to one in which they can experience the deep love of God
- Because Jesus sacrificial death for us is the key to eternal life with God

People will never come to God because they are coerced

They already feel judged, they don't need us to pile on

When we leverage the love of God the way Jesus did *Jesus and the woman caught in adultery*

How so we model God's love?

- Put it into action like the Good Samaritan did
- Like the girl bandaged mangled leg of the woman who began to cry – because a loving touch changed everything
- By this shall all men know that you are my disciples

This isn't easy but it will make all the difference – If you care about the outsiders as well as the insiders

Start living your faith instead of hiding it or just talking about it

Lets Pray