

**I. ME**

- A. Welcome/Online/So what about...?
- B. 1 year
- C. Time to be for Salem
  - 1. God is for you and for Salem
  - 2. Church is usually known for what it's against.
    - a. We want to be known for what we are for...We are for Salem b/c God is for Salem
    - b. God created the church to tell the world that God loves them and wants to transform their lives with purpose, acceptance, freedom, and hope.

**II. WE**

- A. If that is why the church was created... why aren't people rushing to get into every church they can find?
  - 1. Why wouldn't people want to hear that? What's the disconnect?
- B. Not-Xian... you probably know...
  - 1. It's Christians.
  - 2. They often don't display the love of the God they say they represent.
  - 3. So people don't believe that God is actually for them b/c they don't think his people are for them.
  - 4. **People need to know they matter to us before they can be open to hearing they matter to God.**
- C. A lot of churches show people they don't matter to them in a lot of subtle ways...
  - 1. Don't ever expect visitors
  - 2. Language, music, messages.
  - 3. Not purposely excluding,
  - 4. But not purposely including... not even thinking about... shows they don't matter.

D. But the worst is personal lifestyle...

- 1. Many people are turned off by Xianity b/c individual Xians show with their lives that "if you aren't like me (beliefs, etc)... you don't matter to me."
  - a. Come to our club and get cleaned up, start talking and acting like me and then we can maybe hang out.
- 2. "You invite me to church all the time... but you've never invited me to your house."
- 3. Not usually purposely doing it... but either by ignoring, or being too busy with church people... they show that not-xians don't matter to them.
- 4. There's an obvious inconsistency

E. There should be a difference in the people who say they have been made new... there should be a newness...

- 1. Not a boredom, not a judgmentalism, not hypocrisy, but a life of... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- 2. Reason many people choose to leave xianity... parents/leaders say they believe but there is no proof.
  - a. Sometimes blatant hypocrisy.
- 3. If we belong to a God that is FOR people, there needs to be proof...we need to show it by also being FOR people.
- 4. **What you do is evidence of who you are.**
- 5. In fact... Early church leader James, said the same thing.

### III. GOD (James 2:14-19)

#### A. James

1. One of Jesus' little brothers
2. Didn't believe... then Resurrection
3. Leader of church... told people his big brother was God.
4. Shared brother's humor, wit, and simple practicality... (probably from Joseph)

B. One of the most misunderstood and confusing passages... but only b/c we make it so complicated...

#### C. V. 14

1. Huh?! We have to earn salvation? CONTRADICTION!!!!!!
  - a. No.
2. What good is it?... is there any point to it?
  - a. **A faith that's talked about but not lived out is pointless.**
  - b. In fact it's not even faith... it's a fake identity.
    - 1) "I'm a quarterback"...throw this football... "NAH"
    - 2) "I'm a musician"...that's a radio.
    - 3) If you don't actually do what you say you are... it doesn't matter what you say... its just not true.
    - 4) What you do is evidence of who you are.

#### D. V. 15-16

1. Be funny if it wasn't so sad and accurate.
2. Why so many people are tired of "thoughts and prayers"
  - a. Really good to pray... but that prayer and faith should motivate you to loving action!
3. **Faith is not just something you believe... it's something you do.**
  - a. **B/c True faith expresses itself through love.**
4. If you are a follower of Jesus... you have chosen to put your faith in him—you need to love like it.

#### E. V. 17

1. **Workless faith is worthless faith.**
  - a. Real faith transforms you from the inside out.
3. That's why many people get bored w/ xianity.
  - a. They say they believe but don't use that faith to do anything...
4. KNOW all the stuff but they aren't DOING the stuff the learning is designed to create.
5. **Examples-** Basic training, teacher training, driving.
  - a. After a while learning gets boring and frustrating... but once you go and do... things get exciting.
  - b. And then you understand the learning even deeper... b/c it makes a difference in your life.

#### F. V. 18

1. **Good deeds don't save you, they are proof that you are saved.**
2. You can't prove faith w/o action.
3. "Oh I believe this parachute, bungee cord will hold me." So Jump. "Nah."
4. "Oh I believe Jesus can transform me, my family, my neighbors..." so tell them about Him and prove it through your love and be part of the transformation... "Nah"
5. Prove it... by doing it.

#### G. A child of God can't help but look, sound, and act like their Heavenly Father.

1. My kids can't help but look like Liz and me
2. I can't help but look and sound like, and have many of the same mannerisms as my Dad.
3. What you do is evidence of who you are.

H. Child of God lives a life of love.

I. Chill out Jon. Look I believe in GOD. I'm at church (at least watching online). Obviously I have faith...

## J. V. 19

1. Believing in God is not the same as Faith
2. Believing in God does not make you a child of God
3. Demons believe there's a God... know him even better than anyone here... they tremble in fear... but they don't have faith in him.
4. True Faith is choosing to fully trust that Jesus is who he said he is (GOD) and died and rose again to pay the penalty for your rebellion against God... and then allowing the HS to transform you from the inside out.
5. You can know everything about God... but if you don't have a relationship with Him that transforms your heart and actions... you don't have faith.
  - a. If there is no change, no new lifestyle, no good deeds to love others... do you really believe? Are you really a child of the God who died for the world?
  - b. What you do is evidence of who you are.

## IV. YOU

- A. SO WHAT ABOUT... non-xians who do a lot of good things?
  1. We were all created in the image of God... that image still shines through.
  2. But imagine what it could be if it was allowed to fully shine through? If it had the full power of God behind it?
  3. Highly recommend that you look into this Jesus stuff for yourself though.
  4. Makes your life better and you better at life.
  5. Fully accepted, fully forgiven, fully empowered to be who you were created to be.

- B. **Jesus-Follower**—show those around you who you are by what you do.
  1. What are you doing to demonstrate/use your faith?
  2. Are you a positive or negative example of what it means to really be a Xian?
- C. Start with being a good friend...
  1. First---- STOP JUDGING **1 Cor 5:12**
    - a. Includes... neighbors, co-workers, in-laws!!!
  2. Accept people for who they are, as they are
  3. Learn to genuinely enjoy people... just like Jesus did.
  4. Look for the image of God in them and appreciate it and celebrate it
  5. Jesus loved hanging out with people who were nothing like him and they loved hanging out with him
  6. Why? He saw and loved the person for who they were and could be.
  7. He didn't have to fake it.
  8. He showed them that he was for them in spite of their current lifestyle.
  9. **He knew he had something better for them... but they would only find it if they knew he LOVED them.**
  10. People need to know they matter to us before they can be open to hearing they matter to God.
  11. So... Allow the Holy Spirit to transform you... ask him to show you how to love, give you opportunities to do it, and the courage and will to follow through.

12. Why #forSalem is so great... let's the church as a group show people God is for them **AND** the church as individuals showing people God is for them.

1. Gives opportunities for individual xians to be who they really are... to show people that God is for them b/c they are for them.
2. B/c they LIKE them...
  - a. If you like me... I'm drawn to you.
  - b. If I think you don't like me... I'm going to avoid you... and not like you either.
3. **Examples...**
  - a. Get to know your neighbors... so you can know how to love them
  - b. Volunteer (Schirle)
  - c. Next week (**SLIDE**)
  - d. Forsalem.com (give us your ideas)
  - e. Use the #forSalem to encourage others
  - f. SWAG- "It's my church. Often the church is known for what its against. We want to be known for what we are for and we are for Salem b/c God is for Salem."
    - 1) Wearing it makes you do it.
  - g. **Teacher Thank You Cards (5 min)**

## V. WE

- A. God is for you. God is for your family. **God is #forSalem.**
- B. He created the church for the world. To shine his love and make lives better by transforming them into what they were always meant to be.
  1. We created Crosscreek to work with him in accomplishing that mission in Salem... **We are #forSalem.**
- C. And he is asking you to be a part of his mission... to choose to trust him, be his child, and then act like it... by living a life of love and being for others.
- D. You **CAN** show others that God is for them and you **CAN** be a part of transforming the history of Salem...

**You can be #forSalem.**