

Contagious Christians

Pastor Ron McCants

Romans 10:14

CHICAGO: In the early days of Chicago, some bold engineers succeeded in an amazing feat! They actually reversed the flow of the Chicago River. Instead of dirty water flowing into Lake Michigan, the river was dredged & channeled to flow out of L. Mich. into a canal that eventually connected to a river system that would flow into the Miss. River.

- I. **Contagious Church full of Contagious Christians:**
 - A. We must have a passion for Christ in order to develop a passion for people!
 - B. Evangelism takes on many forms:
 - C. Evangelism tends to slip more than any other biblical value

- II. **Jesus had a “Marketplace Theology”**

THE PIT

A man fell into a *pit* and couldn't get himself out.

A Christian Scientist came along and said: "You only think that you are in a *pit*".

A Pharisee said: "Only bad people fall into a *pit*"

A Fundamentalist said: "You deserve your *pit*"

An IRS man asked if he was paying taxes on the *pit*.

A Charismatic said: "Just confess that you're not in a *pit*".

An Optimist said: "Things could be worse".

A Pessimist said: "Things will get worse!"

Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the *pit*.

- A. He did not play well in the temple because there were too many restrictions:
- B. He was “seeker sensitive” -- learned to speak the language of the people so He could give them the message full strength!
- C. Watchword is “PASSION FOR CHRIST” -- not “passion for souls!”

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- D. Sometimes we try to assume the Holy Spirit's role, but the much greater problem is hoping the Holy Spirit will do our job for us.
 - E. Our natural inclination is to care only about what my family & I need
 - F. When others do come in, we get very territorial ... "I've been here longer, why don't I get to do that...?"
 - G. For the sake of lost people, for the sake of obeying Christ, we must get evangelism back into the mix! I must become a contagious Christian.
- III. **Contagious Christian Club:** (not another "bless me club")
- A. Small group with only one requirement: within 6 months you must INVEST in the lives of others! Call it the SANCTIFIED AMWAY PLAN!"
 - B. It is a heart thing: examine yours to see if you are sold out to Great Commission / Promise!
 - C. Contagious churches put the work of evangelism in the hands of ALL the people -- make a list of people you are rubbing shoulders with and then we will pray for them (& you) each time we meet!

A Sunday School teacher, a Mr. Kimball, in 1858, led a Boston shoe clerk to give his life to Christ.

The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist. In England in 1879, he awakened evangelistic zeal in the heart of Fredrick B. Meyer, pastor of a small church.

F. B. Meyer, preaching to an American college campus, brought to Christ a student named J. Wilbur Chapman.

Chapman, engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work.

Billy Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, N.C. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another evangelistic campaign, bringing Mordecai Hamm to town to preach.

During Hamm's revival, a young man named Billy Graham heard the gospel and yielded his life to Christ.

Only eternity will reveal the tremendous impact of that one Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball, who invested his life in the lives of others.