

Sunday, July 26, 2015
Did You Know?

Invite a Friend

The past couple of weeks I've been giving sermons on Christian community. To have healthy, God-honoring, human-flourishing community we must rid ourselves of community destroying vices and fill ourselves with community building graces. Above all, these things come as an overflow from people who know they have been elected by God, not according to their own merit, but by the free-will sovereign choice of God.

When we think of the community that Scripture paints for us, it's wonderful because from time to time, in its imperfect form we experience it. It's filled with acceptance, truth, love, growth, and care.

Now consider your unsaved friend, the one you've been praying for for years. Do you believe that his life would be better off if he was in a community like this? Let me probe some more? Do you believe her life would be better if she trusted in Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord? Do you believe there would be more peace, joy, happiness, and purpose if she surrendered her life to God? I was recently introduced to these types of questions in Pastor Bill Hybel's teaching series on Right Now Media called "Just Walk Across the Room." Those questions really grabbed my heart for a couple of reasons. 1) When I asked those questions of myself, the answers were, "Of course my life is better; most certainly there is more joy; without a doubt I have more purpose." 2) Why is it that believing these things to be true about my unsaved friends, doesn't lead me to be more intentional in sharing my faith?

Do you feel the same way? Don't we all heartily believe this for every human being on our planet -- that the greatest thing that could possibly happen to them, is that they encounter their Creator, God through the person of Jesus Christ? We do!! All of us believe this to be true.

City on a Hill member, I want to encourage you to invite your unsaved friends to church. Don't pray whether you should do this or not. No, that's a useless prayer because you already know you should. That's like praying to see if you should read your Bible or not. Instead, pray for courage, boldness, and an opportunity to ask that friend. Pray that your friend would be open and accept the invitation. Pray that through the invitation, it'll open up a way to talk, at a deeper level, about life and faith. Would you do that?

Pastor Peter