Who’s Your One? – Part 4

Be Nice

Romans 2:4

**A few weeks ago, we began this series and I shared the following quotes from Dr. Thom Rainer**

***“82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited”***

***"Only 2 percent of church members invite an unchurched person to church. 98% of church-goers never extend an invitation in a given year."***

* The Unchurched
* The De-churched
* The Lost

**How do the unchurched in America view the church?**

* "A full 72 percent of the people interviewed said they think the church 'is full of hypocrites,'" said LifeWay Research director Ed Stetzer.
* A majority of unchurched Americans (79 percent) think that Christianity today is more about organized religion than about loving God and loving people
* Other findings showed that 44 percent said Christians "get on my nerves."

**On the positive:**

* Still, a majority (89 percent) of the unchurched have at least one close friend who is Christian, Stetzer noted. And while turned off by church, 78 percent are willing to listen to someone who wanted to talk about their Christian beliefs. The number rose to 89 percent among adults 18-29 years of age.
* Additionally, 78 percent of adults 30 years and older said they would enjoy an honest conversation with a friend about religious and spiritual beliefs, even if they disagreed with the friend.
* Only 28 percent of adults 30 years and older said they think Christians they know talk to them too much about their beliefs.
* "We think religion is a topic that is off-limits in polite conversation, but unchurched people say they would enjoy conversations about spiritual matters," Stetzer noted

**We can reach our ONE by being nice, being kind, and showing a little grace.**

* And I’m going to show you in the Scriptures today why and how we can do it.

**Read:** Romans 2:1-11

**#1 – We need to be real about The Condition of the World**

**The Bible gives us some clear descriptions of our world in Romans 1.**

* Let’s take a look at that before we look at our main text for today.
* Romans 1:18-32

**In this we see the Description of Lives lived apart from God (Romans 1:18)**

**#1 -** Ungodliness – A lack of reverence for, devotion to and worship of the one true God, living without any conscious reference to God, and proper feelings towards Him

**#2 -** Unrighteousness – a lack of conformity in thought, word, and deed to the character and law of God, affecting behavior, speech, and the heart

**#3 – The** Suppression of the Truth – They resist and oppose God’s truth by holding fast to their sin

**#2 – We need to know the Character of God in dealing with World**

**Rom. 2:4, “**Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?”

**#1 - That God is good**

* **The Goodness of God (The Scripture tells us) is One of His Attributes:**
* **Psalms 107:1**, Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.
* **Psalms 31:19,** How great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast **stored up for those who fear Thee**, which Thou hast **wrought for those who take refuge in Thee**, before the sons of men!
* **Hosea 3:5**, Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.
* **God is the source of everything Good**
* **James 1:17**, Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.
* **The Goodness of God Describes Who He is**
* **Mark 10:18**, “So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.”
* **Goodness cannot be separated from Him**
* You cannot have goodness without God, just as you cannot have God without goodness. God alone is good:
* **Psalms 16:2**, I said to the LORD, “Thou art my Lord; I have no good besides Thee”.

John Piper, “This goodness is **abundant beyond measure**. It is boundless. It lasts forever. It is all-encompassing. There is only goodness for those who fear him. Everything works together for their good. Even their pains are filled with profit”

**“Do not underestimate the value of God’s Goodness.”**

**#2 – That God is Merciful**

* God has withheld his Wrath - **Romans 3:23-25**
* The Forbearance of God: holding back, same word used as a truce between warring parties/ (We’re not going to fight)

**But we serve a loving God.** Yes, and you wouldn’t have had a chance had He not extended His love to you, had there not been a cross.

**#3 - That God is Patient (Longsuffering)**

* Longsuffering – God demonstrates his Goodness and Forbearance for long periods of time.
* 2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, **but is longsuffering toward us**, **not willing that any should perish** but that all should come to repentance.”
* **We need to be grateful for His LONGSUFFERING**

**#4 – That God is Full of Grace**

* **His Kindness (Grace)**
* **Kindness:** fit for use, useful, virtuous, good, manageable , mild, pleasant (as opp. to harsh, hard sharp, bitter) , of things: more pleasant, of people, kind, benevolent / His Moral Goodness
* The intent of the kindness of God is to give opportunity for repentance
* Repentance: A Change of Mind

**The Goal of His Goodness, Forbearance, Longsuffering and Kindness is Redemption**

**How does this help us in reaching our ONE?**

As we talked about last week, we are God’s Ambassadors (His representatives)

**#1 - Don’t Despise God’s Goodness**

**#2 - Hold Back your wrath**

**#3 – Longsuffer/ Be Patient**

**#4 - Be Nice**

* Be Nice/ **Ephesians 4:29** Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

**have to say it.**

**It is the Kindness of the Lord that leads people to repentance.**

**It’s the Kindness of God’s People that will lead lost people to the Lord**