

How to Connect People With God

Customer Service Stories:

- BOTT Trip – Waitress quit
- BOTT Trip – Mary the waitress
- Radio Shack – looking for Intel camera (“Mattel”)
- Country Inn (Bangor) – Wireless Internet
- Rogers – Menu system
- Hardware stores – feels like you’ve walked into eternity!

Doesn’t the attitude of those who serve make all the difference in your experience? It’s the same when we’re trying to get people connected with God! Our attitude says it all. Many churches have challenges here!

Church Visitor Stories:

- NS church – “nurse” slapped sleeping man
- California church – greeted visitors with “Hallelujah!”
- Music “practiced” on stage
- LONG preliminaries!
- JCM Music Conference – long intros, “ushers, block the doors!”

Because it is the Word of God, the Bible is really the ultimate “human relations” book. Here’s one of its stories that gives us a bit of insight into how it SHOULD be done ...

1 Kings 10:1-2 ¹ And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions. ² And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

1 Kings 10:1 (MSG) *The queen of Sheba heard about Solomon and his connection with the Name of God. She came to put his reputation to the test by asking tough questions.*

1 Kings 10:6-8 ⁶ And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. ⁷ Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. ⁸ Happy are thy men, **happy are these thy servants**, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

Solomon’s possessions were impressive, but the final thing the Queen of Sheba mentions is the HAPPINESS of his servants!

The word “happiness” is only used 22 times in the Bible (NT – 6X, OT – 16X), and it NEVER means what we have been conditioned to think of today! In the Bible, “happy” doesn’t mean, “having everything go my way.” It means, “blessed or favored by God.” YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY (BLESSED) ABOUT WITH GOD!

1. She heard of Solomon’s connection with the name of the Lord
2. She came to put his reputation to the test with hard questions
3. She brought a lot of “baggage” that she thought was impressive
4. She didn’t believe the reputation until she saw with her own eyes
5. The happiness of his servants was the “clincher” for her

Are you HAPPY about serving God? About being in church? A better question: Could anybody else who met you today tell it?

We are God’s “customer service representatives” as far as people are concerned! No matter how good God is, people will not believe it if they check out His people and find them unconcerned, rude or petty.

1. Evangelism should be PERSONALITY-ORIENTED.

- Christians are to BE good news before they SHARE the good news. When we are “real” people, it puts others at ease and lets them know that our Christianity is real also.
- There are many different styles of evangelism: confrontational (Peter in Acts 2), intellectual (Paul in Acts 17), testimonial (blind man in John 9), interpersonal (Matthew in Luke 5), invitational (woman at the well in John 4), servicing (Dorcas in Acts 9)

2. Evangelism should be PEOPLE-ORIENTED.

- When we show a genuine interest in others, they will eventually want to know WHY! An evangelistic “event” tends to rush people, but an evangelistic “process” is patient with people.

3. Evangelism should be TEAM-ORIENTED.

- A person’s coming to God is like a chain with many links; we don’t have to be every link, just one link! We need to intentionally become partners, linking our abilities to lead people to God.

4. Evangelism should be ETERNITY-ORIENTED.

- Evangelism is the primary reason that the church is on planet earth – nothing else is as important to God. If one soul is worth more than the entire world, then any person we meet is incredibly valuable to God.

PLAN TO REACH THE LOST! It has to be intentional, or it won’t happen!

Proverbs 16:9 We should make our plans, counting on God to direct us.