



WORDS FROM
Pastor Randy

Here's something for us all to "chew on" this week. I am really convinced that many churches tell a great untruth ("lie") when they put on their sign the words, "Everyone Welcome." Perhaps, you've visited some church only to find out that everybody was not welcomed there!

Here's the Top 10 Ways to be sure guest never come back to our church again:

10. Never ask a guest's name. If you somehow discover it, certainly don't call them by name. You don't want to get too friendly on the first visit.
9. Never sit near or beside a guest at church. If they look uncomfortable or lonely, don't worry. It's not your responsibility.
8. Look generally miserable. Frown often. Make it obvious that church is a serious thing and smiles are inappropriate.
7. Hallways should be empty when guests arrive. You mustn't overwhelm them. After all, guests can discover their own route to worship or class.
6. Don't invite a guest to your Sunday School Class or church events. You don't want to appear too forward. Never invite a guest to lunch with you!
5. Sit at the end of the pew, allowing guests to climb over you. Reserve seats for your friends and hold your ground if a guest tries to infringe. If a guest is seated there when you arrive, firmly let them know it's your pew. Your comfort is more important than making it easy on unchurched guests.
4. Tell the guest how many years you have been a member of the church. Point out just how many of our church members are related. That way He'll clearly understand that he will always be an outside here.
3. Count the ceiling tiles during worship. Eat mints. Look at your watch often. Write a grocery list. Take a nap. Don't sing or open a Bible or take sermon notes. Whisper loudly to your kids and allow them to roam in and out of the service at their leisure.
2. Snort softly if a guest arrives late. Roll your eyes if his child wiggles. If a guest is dressed inappropriately, just shake your head. Generally, ignore the guest if his skin color or social status does not match yours.
1. During the invitation, gather your personal belongings. Feel free to leave during the invitation, since you have more important things waiting. If a guest is considering making a decision for Christ, He'll probably make it whether you're there or not.

Obviously, if our church really and truly wants to reach those who are guests, let's consider doing just the opposite of these 10 instructions.

Blessing for the Journey,

Pastor Randy

Trivia That Isn't Trivial

1. John the Baptist was how much older than Jesus?
2. A Christian who returns to a life of sin is likened to which animals?
3. What was the name of Blind Bartimaeus's father?

ANSWERS

1. About 6 months (Luke 1:24-27, 36, 56-57)
2. A dog & a sow (2 Peter 2:20-22)
3. Timaeus (Mark 10:46)