

HOW TO ~~SHARE~~ *wear* YOUR
FAITH

Romans 2:28-29

²⁸ A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

Big Idea:

**The transparency of our lives demonstrates the faith we carry.
Our values and message are obvious, regardless of what we say.**

Is your faith relevant?

The compassion of Christ and the Truth of his Word - INGRAINED

- Not portraying something you are not
- Real with who you are
- Demonstrating outwardly the reality of Christ inside
- Avoiding 'skin-deep' piety, pretence, and arrogance.
- In touch with the real issues of your world

Relevant yet not conformed?

- **Jesus' wisdom enabled him to cut to the heart of the matter**
 - Through the exterior shell of false righteousness,
 - Through the internal core of sin;
- **His clear understanding was never tainted by prejudice or human bias.**
 - He didn't ever succumb to the worldly influences
 - and godless conditioning that constantly pressure our thinking

Jesus' mission

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- **To bring salvation**
- **To reveal His salvation plan**

Our mission likewise...

- **To live as he lived**
 - **Speaking & demonstrating truth**
 - **Shining light into dark places**
 - **Maintaining a distinction**
 - **Making a difference.**
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- **It is not to BLEND IN!**

Politically Correct – “PC”

- This generation’s governing principles of correct thought and action.
- Often unspoken rules of common courtesy and expected behaviour.
- Enforced by popular voice, but with no real governing mandate
- Influenced by society’s popular notions, and steered by the media

Based less and less in God’s righteousness

The Truth

- **We are the last remaining guardians of the truth**
 - We must not become influenced by the thinking of this world
 - Hold onto the Word of truth.
- **We must live and speak the truth of Christ and His way of salvation.**
 - In so doing declaring on the outside our absolute certainty in what we believe on the inside.

Intentional - every day

- Stand with confidence, content to be different
- Unapologetic that we may seem weird
- Taking time to connect and be available,
- Sensitive to their world and attuned to their cues.
- Offering words of hope, encouragement, compassion.

Who we are is the reality of who we are!

We are all unique

'Sharing your faith' is not:

- putting on a different face
- doing, saying, or being anything other than who we are

Flag bearers

- Take the message of salvation with you
- No time to go and get it
- No longer fresh or real if left till Sunday
- Radar on, engaging with the people in my life today

True colours

Real people like Louis

Questions to make it real:

“What do you do for holidays?”

“What’s your partner’s name?”

“How is that relationship going for you?”

“Got any good ideas on how to keep it strong?”

They want to talk – because their mates don’t!

WEAR your faith

- Take it with you - Louis probably won't come to church
- Talk about the real stuff of life
- Help them understand the wisdom you know of your life in Christ.
- Show him the **Way**, the **Truth**, and the **Life**.

Your faith is relevant, even essential to this world.

Proud of your faith and Church community

- The church is not without its faults and shortcomings
- Sometimes we cloud the message with our own internal issues

Crucial conversations...

Hot topic today - Gender

- Homosexuality
- Civil union rights
- Gender inequality
- Pay equity
- Women in leadership
- Etc, etc

Where does the church stand?

- It's controversial & divisive
- As a leadership we are aware of the breadth of viewpoints within the congregation, because we too are quite diverse.
- For some, it offends and undermines the very integrity of our faith and relevance in the world we live in.
- Please come and talk with the leadership if you believe God's Word teaches anything other than what we practice

Our intention

- The world changes more quickly because it makes it's own rules
- We must be careful to maintain God's
- If personally I hold a more liberal view, I must accept that for church leadership to adopt change it must be aligned with what the scriptures to teach, and in good conscience.
- The balance this leadership tries to maintain:
 - To humbly accept that we may not fully understand God's Word in every matter
 - To constantly seek His wisdom, guidance, and understanding
 - To reflect on and challenge the broader views held, but avoid getting distracted
 - To hold true to what seems clear in God's Word, especially the tenants of our faith
 - And to promote unity in the faith and knowledge of Christ (Eph 4:13)

What does unity look like?

UNITY IS...

- Togetherness in spite of our differences
- Having a common purpose even though we are different individuals
- Exploring your perspective, even though having my own convictions
- Trusting your integrity whilst disagreeing with your viewpoint.
- Celebrating breath and diversity

The relevance of God's church today

John 13:34-35

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

**Love for each other is what makes us stand out,
and makes the message of Christ attractive.**

The relevance of our faith today

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Do you WEAR your faith well?