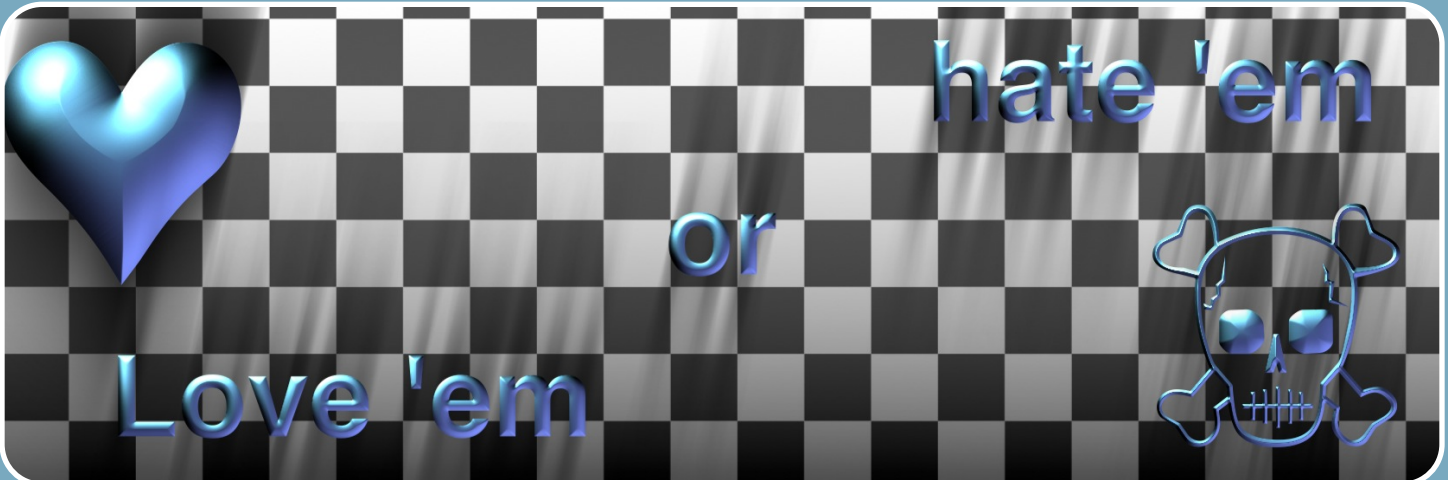


December 11, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

Who are we?

"Knowing who we are is knowing who God is and the community we belong to."



WHO WE ARE

Do you love others or judge others...

Who are you cross with? Who just gets on your nerves even when they are doing nothing but being themselves? Here is a better question who do you judge? We all have people who just bug us and we don't even know why? Could it be that when we feel this way about people we are being a bully?

Think about it when we don't accept people and we judge them we are being a bully to that person. Maybe we think that we have the right to judge, because they are well just different, than us. Matthew 7:1-2 says this: 1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Okay there you have it we are not to judge. Even if we think we have the right, we don't, if you believe that you have the right to judge, then you need to check who is telling you have the right. God or the thief? It won't be God so the only other choice is the thief and we don't want to listen to him, because he is a liar!

So what are we to do? How are we suppose to handle the people who in our mind don't just fit into our world? Check this out John 13:33-34 "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my

disciples—when they see the love you have for each other." We have a responsibility as Christians and that is to love one another. Jesus does not say love those that love you but we are to love one another, and when we love others people will know that we are His children. Wow that is going to be tuff, but understand this the job that is before you was never meant to be easy. It is tuff and it causes you to depend on Him for the strength to do the job that He has given us to do.

On the other side of things what if you are one of the people who are not getting love, and well you just don't know how to fit in? Well the same thing goes for you, you are to love others. You are to carry yourself as a child of God and love others. The moment that you depend on God to help you with all the problems that are going on in your life, the faster you will find freedom. We tend to accept the labels the world gives us and that causes us to act and behave a certain way. We must rise up and love, others. This will change you from the inside out. We must trust God for all things, and when you do that you will find that loving others will help you more than you ever thought it would.



Who We Are

We all have a desire to fit in, we all want to belong. But what happens when you just don't seem to fit in. It happens to all of us at one point and time. We doubt who we are and we change who we are so that we might fit in. As soon as we do that well you can bet that you won't fit in and you won't be happy with yourself. Being who we are is key, and knowing how to love other people in the process is the answer. When we follow Jesus commands we win. When you love others even when you are not feeling like you are being loved for who you are, it opens doors so that you can stay true to yourself. We have to ask this one question, is it more important to fit in or follow Jesus's commands? Think that one over!

God's Love Should Bring Us Joy and Love For Others

"Back to the Start" by Martin Smith

"Back to the Start"
Waiting for You
Be my rescue
Find me and bring me out alive
I will surrender

Back to the start
Where You found me
I give You my heart again
Take everything
I'm all I can bring
I'm coming home again

Saviour, save me
Darkness, leave me
Healer, burn away this pain
Hold me, I'm a fire, I'm not a flame

Back to the start
Where You found me
I give You my heart again
Take everything
I'm all I can bring
I'm coming home again
Coming home, coming home...

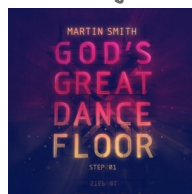
Oh, I give You my heart again
Oh, I give You my heart again

I'm coming back
To the start, to the start
I'm coming back to You

I'm running back
To Your heart, to Your heart
I'm running back to You

You'll never stop loving us
No matter how far we run
You'll never give up on us
All of Heaven shouts
"Let the future begin!"

I feel alive, I come alive
I am alive on God's great dance floor



This song is featured on
God's Great Dance Floor
by
Martin Smith

Real Life Heroes

Petrue Kristian

Indonesia

1996

"It's Not Difficult Being A Christian"

"My name is Petrus Kristian. I am the oldest son of Pastor Ishak Kristian, who was burned to death a few months ago. It happened on October 10, 1996. At 11:30 A.M., about twenty people came and surrounded the church. My father, the pastor, tried calming those angry people, but they did not move away from the church. My father went into the house and prayed with six other people, including the rest of my family. "Thirty minutes later, about 200 people came on foot bringing many kinds of tools. They started smashing the church building and parsonage. Six of the people in the house, including my father, ran and hid in a room at the back, of the house. The other person hid upstairs where he was safe. Some of those angry people saw them and told them to get out of the room. Since they did not leave, the people started burning the building. "One of those seven people, did it (a church worker) ran through the fire and escaped My father, mother, sister, cousin, and a church worker were trapped in the house and burned to death. "During the fire, the local police did not take any action, probably because they were afraid of the mob. I hurried to the church at 1:30 P.M. but by that time, all were gone. The army, whose military base was four kilometers from town, were at military training elsewhere and were not available. When they arrived at 5:00 P.M. to guard the area, everything was in ashes. "The night before the funeral, a local government official apologized. He advised me not to take revenge. He also said that the incident might be my family's fate. (This is Muslim teaching — the will of Allah.) "At first, I was really disappointed because I lost all of my beloved people. But this made me realize that material things around me are not eternal or worth loving. After the fire, most of our congregation became stronger in faith. "Because we have Jesus, it is not difficult to be a Christian, although there are many oppressions."

Whatever we do, it is because Christ's love controls us.... Those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them. Paul the Apostle Martyred In Rome, 65 AD (2 CORINTHIANS 5:14,15 NLT)

Since Jesus went through everything you're going through and more, learn to think like him. Think of your sufferings as a weaning from that old sinful habit of always expecting to get your own way. Then you'll be able to live out your days free to pursue what God wants instead of being tyrannized by what you want. Peter the Apostle Crucified upside-down in Rome, 65 AD (1 PETER 4:1,2 THE MESSAGE)

Sin loses its power over us when we lay our lives down for Christ — because our eyes are on Jesus. dcTalk

Featured Story from
the book
Jesus Freaks dc Talk
and the voice of the
Martyrs



CHARACTER

EXTREME APPLICATION

Who are you? Do you stand out in a crowd because you are different? As followers of Jesus we are to stand out in a crowd! We are not suppose to be like everyone else, we are to be leading the way to change, and to the real life that Jesus gives us. When we try to be something that we are not, we set ourselves up to fail. Extreme character is being who you are not matter what!

Think About it (Tension in loving others)

We are called by our master to love others no matter what and that means we don't judge them for what they do or what they are. Matthew 7:1-2 says this: 1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. It is easy to judge and it is sometimes very hard to love! There is a tension, and we usually take the road that is easiest to walk. We would rather do what is wrong thing because it is easy, than do the right thing which is hard. Look at the tension in this verse, John 13:33-34 "Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples — when they see the love you have for each other." There is a tension there to love others as Jesus loves us. Jesus loves us so much that He died on the tree to make things right between us and God. When He did this we hated Him, and did not want to hear what He told us. So who are the people who hate you don't like you, don't listen to you? Can you love them the way that Jesus loves you? That is not an easy thing to do. It is far easier to just judge them.

But what happens when you love them? What happens when you reach out to them, and show them the love that Jesus shows you? It creates tension, cause the other person is why are you loving me don't you see the way that I treat you, don't you see that I don't live like you? It makes them think and makes them process all the more about who you are. At first they may think you to be a fool, but if you keep pressing in and loving them, then in the end you will have a friend and a person who wants to know who Jesus is because you have shown them over and over who He is.

We have to be comfortable being different and we have to trust God that our being different is completely part of His plan for our life. We have to show the world who our Lord is by the way that we live.

So choose to live in the tension, and change the world!



DIG IN

Read: Matthew 7:1-2 says this: 1 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

1. Are there certain kinds of people that just kind of bug you? Put a checkmark next to the three that are most annoying to you.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bossy people | <input type="checkbox"/> People who talk too much |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quiet kids | <input type="checkbox"/> People who dress weird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Messy people | <input type="checkbox"/> People with different skin color |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neat freaks" | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short or tall people | <input type="checkbox"/> Good athletes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skinny or heavy people | <input type="checkbox"/> Smart people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Older people | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immature elementary kids | |

2. Do you make fun of anyone? Put a circle around one or two types of people in the list

3. Why do kids pick on or ignore others at school?

4. Read John 4:7-15. list at least two ways the people in this story are different from each other.

John 4:7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water

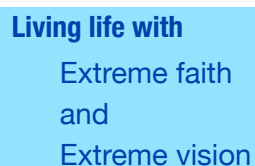
5. Read John 4:39-42. What was the result of Jesus stepping across a barrier and revealing who he was to those who were being put down?

John 4:39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers. 42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

6. Write down the first names of two people who are put down by others. list one or two ways you can show who Jesus is to each of them.

UNDERSTANDING
WHO WE ARE

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

[illegible]

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