

4 acts of Love

(Reflections from the sermon on Sunday – May 1, 2016)
(Lesson 4) Act #3: Genuine Humility

“Your love for the world will prove you are my disciples.”
John 13:35 NLT

80% of unchurched people (not attended church in one year) feel judged, they don't want to be lectured and their perception of Christians falls in the category of hypocrisy. What do we do?

Researchers tell us that people are longing for what Jesus has to offer. They may be leaving the church (more than 10 churches are closing per day in the US), but they are hungry for God.

- 91% say they *believe in God*
- 88% say *faith is important*
- 64% are *open to pursuing their faith* in an environment other than a church.

(The Pew Research Center – 2012; The Barna Group – 2009)

People say they are exploring and searching for answers. Accordingly we must find a way to reach them.

We have found in our previous two studies that *Radical Hospitality* takes initiative to *show the true heart of Christ* to those who feel like they will be, or are being judged – *not letting the stain of sin hide the need of one's heart*. And *Fearless Conversation* is a bold move on the part of believers to *eliminate the lecture* and implement *listening*.

This study focuses in on the hypocritical image of church goers that people outside the church often see.

1. Why would people feel that the church people of hypocrites?
2. Do you feel these criticisms are justified? Why?



3. Read **Philippians 2:1-11** and explain the humility of Jesus:

4. How are we to take His example and apply it to those who feel we are living a double life?

The number of people saying there is no one with whom they discussed important matters nearly tripled in 20 years (43.6% of US Citizens). Miller McPherson Lynn Smith-Lovin, and Matthew E Brashears, *American*

Sociological Review, Vol. 71 (2006)

Our culture today is crying out for leaders and churches who value face-to-face, voice-to-voice, heart-to-heart interaction.

5. Jesus taught specifically on humility in **Luke 14:7-14**. What does this mean for our churches today?

Can we be ourselves and not over do the process? Try these suggestions for being intentional and non-competitive:

- Plan to Learn from Others – Think of engaging someone that may be polar-opposite from you
- Embrace All Ages – Young and old alike
- Model Vulnerability – Don't be afraid to tell your story; layer by layer
- Cut the Committees – A ruling committee tends to control, which is the exact opposite of genuine humility – “We're all in this together”
- Conduct a “Rules Audit” – Find things in or around the church that may communicate rules and find another way to communicate the message desired.