

4 acts of Love

(Reflections from the sermon on Sunday – May 8, 2016)

(Lesson 5) Act #4: Divine Anticipation

But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. ¹⁹They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Romans 1:18-20 NLT

As time continues to move rapidly on the church is growing more distant from people. Today, 80% of Americans don't feel welcomed or comfortable in a church service. The vernacular may be different but the reasons for not coming fall mainly into four categories. In the past three weeks we have taken each of those reasons and propose to offer an act of love to alter their perspective of God, then the church (aided by the studies and compilation of work from Thom and Joani Schultz – co-founders of Group Publishing, and authors of the book, *Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore*, 2014).

The reasons nobody wants to go to church anymore:

1. They feel judged; so we want to offer RADICAL HOSPITALITY – “You're welcome just as you are!”
2. They don't like to be lectured to; so we want to offer FEARLESS CONVERSATION – “Your thoughts are welcome, your doubts are welcome – we are listening!”
3. They believe the church is comprised of hypocrites; so we want to offer GENUINE HUMILITY – “We're all in this together.”

Perhaps the most damning of all reasons is the feeling that God is no longer relevant in our world or culture.

1. Why do people feel that God is not relevant anymore?



2. What is your evidence that God is relevant today?

One way that God's relevance can be observed is by DIVINE ANTICIPATION.

3. How do the following verses describe Divine Anticipation?
Matthew 18:20; Matthew 28:20

Acts 2:43

John 14:12

4. Here are some scripture verses that will define our actions to help the world to know that God is very relevant in the world today. Read the verse and identify the action we should take.

2 Corinthians 12:9 –

1 Corinthians 1:25 –

Isaiah 55:8 –

Galatians 2:20 –

Acts 12:5, 12-16 –

James 1:19 –