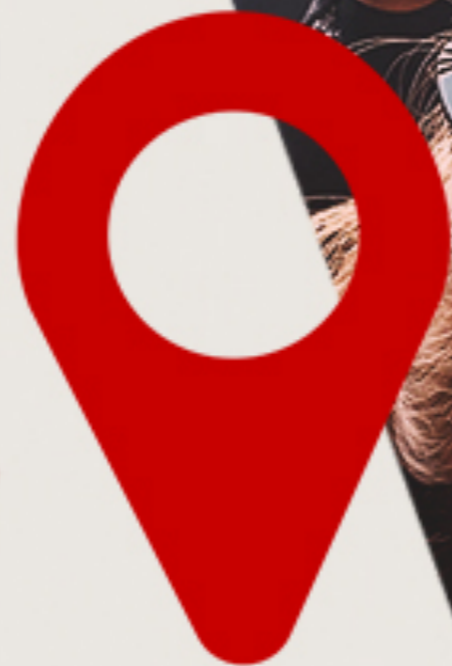


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***“Many people think that Christianity is a belief system, but it’s really a belong system.”***  
***— Ps. D. Karl Thomas***



# John 1:35-39

“...They said to Him, “Rabbi” (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?”

He said to them, “**Come and see.**”

They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour).



1. Being excited about Jesus is ok! Its normal!

2. Sometimes we rightly focus on leading people to Jesus, but can overlook the fact that often, the first step is letting Jesus lead people to us.

3. An invite culture is more about ***including*** people than it is about ***informing*** people.



# 1. Being excited about Jesus is ok ! Its normal!

## John 1:40-46

*He [Andrew] first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah”... And he brought him to Jesus... The following day... He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me...” Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him...”*

**“Come and see.”**



## Luke 2:17

"After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone..."

## John 4:28-29

"...left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?'"



# Rick Joyner

*“...the most powerful evangelistic force in the world is an encouraged Church. When the Church is encouraged, individual Believers share their faith with their friends and relatives, and that is the most effective evangelism that exists, by far.”*



# 1 Peter 3:15

*"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"*





**2. Sometimes we rightly focus on leading people to Jesus, but can overlook the fact that often, the first step is letting Jesus lead people to us.**

**John Finney, *"Finding Faith Today: How Does it Happen?"***



1.They are first introduced to the church through a family member, a friend, a colleague, or a Christian friend.

2.They come, they ask questions, they listen, they pick things up from being apart of the community.



3. They are at some point invited to explore things intentionally in a little deeper way; to arrive at some specific knowledge, usually through a group or some sort of program, mentorship, or discipleship.

4. They then come to discover that they have in fact become a Christian and then take a formal step such as baptism.



## 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 (NKJV)

"You yourselves are our letter,  
*written on our hearts, known and*  
*read by everyone. You show that*  
*you are a letter from Christ, the*  
*result of our ministry, written not*  
*with ink but with the Spirit of the*  
*living God, not on tablets of stone*  
*but on tablets of human hearts."*



## John 14:6 (NIV)

*“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life...”*

**Jesus Christ is the truth, but where can we find Him?**

## 1 Timothy 3:15 (NLT)

*“... This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth.”*



**3. An invite culture is more about *including* people than it is *informing* people.**

***It means that we do things like invite people to join us in the things that we do. We don't have an "us verses them mentality." There are no longer insiders verses outsiders.***



## 2 Corinthians 5:14-16

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view...*"



***Barriers to people's inclusion have been removed by Jesus.***

## **Galatians 2:14-18**

*"...He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us...He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death."*





*When we include people, invite them and include them in our community life and practice before informing them, our choice to show love and acceptance speaks a far more informative and powerful message than any pre-conditioned belief statement or behavioural expectation ever could.*



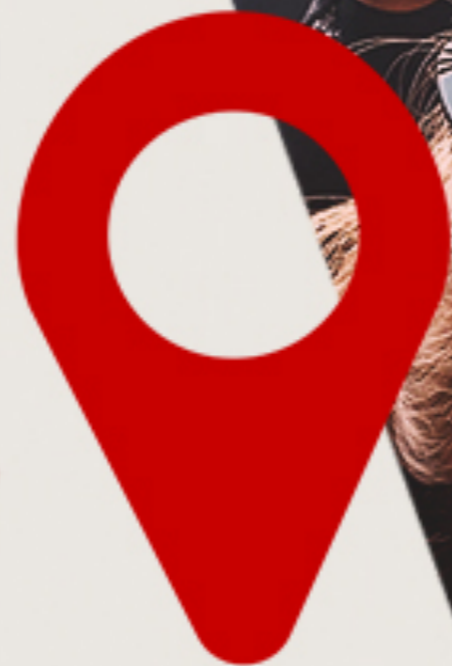
*"...Then they said to the woman,  
"Now we believe, not because of  
what you said, **for we ourselves  
have heard Him** and we know  
that this is indeed the Christ,  
the Savior of the world."*

*— John 4:39-42*



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