

I Want One Like That

Acts 1:8/2:41-47

Sounds like something a child would say, doesn't it? To be perfectly honest, we would not be surprised to know that every one of us here have said the same thing at various times . . . most every day. It could relate to everything from a hair style to a shotgun. Before building a home, it's only natural to look through Southern Living or go to the home show and look for "one like that" for the bathroom or the study of the new house.

The power of our "likes" can be pretty controlling at times. Imagine a husband who goes to the boat show with his buddies. He sees the boat that is the dream of his life. It's the perfect color, has a powerful engine, a private cabin, and the most comfortable captain's chairs you could imagine. The price has been lowered to the 20% off boat show special. He comes home wearing a free "captain's cap" and tells his wife, I found just what I like, and I got a great deal and signed the contract for \$32,000.

At this point, she would have wanted the shotgun instead of the hairdo.

I remember it was our last year in college. One of my good friends purchased a new Chevrolet Corvair. What a car! I told Linda, "I want one like that . . ." and somehow, as ridiculous as it was, we got it . . . along with a monthly reminder of how dumb "I want one like that" can be. It was a great car.

When was the last time you heard someone say "I want one like that" after visiting our church? How many times have you heard it from anyone about any church for that matter? Or who has come up to you lately and said, "I want a marriage like yours? How did you get that?" Funny, we say it or hear from others who want a job like yours, a car like yours, or perhaps even a house like yours; but when it comes to a church or a spiritual walk like yours, we just don't hear it that often if at all.

In our study of the book entitled, "The Acts of the Apostles," we immediately see a picture of the church as God intended. It was not only magnetic, alive, exciting, and attractive, but it had a not-so-subtle power that drew people by the droves. It became a model that caused others across the then-known world to say "I want one like that."

At its core are "Relationships." First with God through Jesus Christ and second with each other, an authentic family that reflects His power and His love. The implications are profound for each of us here but especially for those who "want one like it."

Life Response

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on John 16:13-14, “*But when He, the spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.*”
 - a. Write these two verses on a 3x5 card. As you write, ask the Holy Spirit to penetrate your heart with His truth about Him and how it might affect you.
 - b. On the backside of the card summarize in a phrase or short sentence what this passage means to you personally.
 - c. At the bottom two-thirds of the card state 3 things you can do to cultivate and weave into your walk that which would reflect the truth of John 16:13-14. (Pay close attention to verse 14 in context of I Cor. 6:19-20; I Cor. 10:31)
2. Set aside a minimum of 20 minutes each day, beginning today, to read meditate and prayerfully personalize one paragraph of Psalm 119 each day this week; i.e. Sunday, Psalm 119:1-8; Monday Ps. 119:9-16. Note in each sentence (verse) the synonym for “God’s” truth (word, law, precepts, statutes, etc.). Write out personal observations.
3. Last night in your minichurch the question was posed; “What if our minichurch (church, care group or cell group) were the “Poster Child” of the church defined in this passage?
 - ...What would it require of each of us?
 - ...What stands out as the first or second most significant identities to you from this passage and why?
 - ...Is such an atmosphere realistic given our culture today?How would you answer these questions? How important should they be?

Pentecost is past. The church does not need another Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is here making available all His power. The need of the church is simply dedicated Christians who continue steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers.”

-Dr. Charles C. Ryrie

What is at the core/heartthrob of the first church?

The power of Holy Spirit Who transforms lives which impacts our culture.

Acts 1:8 The power to “be” witnesses, revealers, modelers, etc.

Witness as a Noun

Life/Love of Christ Personified

- Eph 2:1-8 - Dead in sin/Made us alive
- 2 Cor 3:2-3 - Incarnation of Christ
- Gal 5:22-26 - Our walk in relationship

Witness as a Verb

Life/Love of Christ Proclaimed

- Acts 4:18-20 - Compelled
- Acts 4:28-33 - Boldness
- Acts 5:25-30 - Obedience
- Acts 6:10 - Convicting

What is the one most single significant event in your life?

What is the one most single significant thing you can do for another?

How do we Get There?(A Pre-requisite)

The Question: “What shall we do?”

The Answer: “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

And How:

1. Repent

Must understand the Jewish mindset

2 Chronicles 7:14

- ✓ “humble themselves” - Acknowledge sin nature and need
- ✓ “pray” - To be wholly dependent upon the Lord
- ✓ “seek My face” - Walk in total obedience to Him in fellowship
- ✓ turn from wicked ways - To volitionally choose righteousness

2. Baptism “...in the name of Jesus Christ”_

Ø John the Baptist; Ø FBC; Ø a church

But, into Christ through the power of Holy Spirit

Results In

Forgiveness of sin - To be made righteous

Empowered in Holy Spirit - To “BE” His witness

What did this Church (Noun) look like? Acts 2:42-47

What stands out as most attractive and descriptive for you?

Central in the life of the Church: THE WORD – “apostles’ teaching

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching....”

Placed first in the description of the Church

Continual devotion (adherence)

A way of life

A directive of Christ for the Church Matt 28:19-20

Foundational to the Church Eph 2:15ff

A warning to the Church 2 Tim 1:13

2 Tim 4:3-5

So what does this mean for me...as well as FBC?

- 1 Tim 4 :6 Constantly nourished on words of faith/sound doctrine
- :11 Prescribe these things
- :13 Give attention to Scripture, exhortation and teaching
- :15 Take pains, be absorbed
- :16 Pay close attention to yourself and teaching/persevere

1. Set aside daily time to be absorbed in the Word
2. Memorize/meditate on Scripture
3. Pray through Scripture
4. Walk in communion