

Contagious Christianity

"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere"
(2 Corinthians 2:14).

In a recent conversation, I discussed with someone the necessity of a good attitude. We immediately agreed on both the positive and negative effects that our perspective, outlook, and overall temperament can have on others. When we are having a bad day, it is very easy through our complaints, poor mood, and "Debbie Downer ways" to inadvertently force those around us into similar feelings. And on the other side, we can also positively change the atmosphere with our positive, upbeat, and hope-centered outlook on life. The word "contagious" came up... I recall the man saying something along the lines of: "When I am around that person who is full of joy and is always positive, I can feel it start to impact me; it's contagious..."

Well, here is my question for you, dear Christian: What are you spreading? Contagious Christianity should be what we are after, and it should be what is flowing out of us. Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthians, explained the truth that to the onlooking world, we are spreading the fragrance of Jesus. Granted, some don't like this fragrance, and like a whiff of bad perfume, will shake their head, cough, and leave the room. But for some, this fragrance that we spread in the name of Christ has the power to change lives both now and forevermore!

The divine privilege that we all have as Christians is the opportunity to influence and impact others for the gospel. And it is our everyday life, and how we carry ourselves in a holy, happy, and humble way that will make all the difference. As I am typing this, I can think of two people in particular that I love being around, quite frankly because they are builders and not bulldozers. And when in their presence, I am lifted in the Spirit, and I am encouraged to continue to fight the good fight of faith. Yes, we could chalk some of this up to their personality traits, but even more so, the reason is because of who they are in Christ and because they know the truth behind what Jesus told His apostles about the secret to true joy, He said: "Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).

Would the people that are around you from day to day say that you are a person that is happy and joyful? Or are you one of those people who like to complain about everything? Which the Lord clearly warns us about in Philippians 2:14-15: "Do everything without complaining or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation."

I don't think we realize it, but all of us are spreading something... As a Christian, make sure you are spreading the truth, beauty, and glory of who Jesus really is. Through your sacrificial love, laughter that is good like a medicine, positive perspective on life, steadfastness through suffering, words of wisdom and insight, constant encouragement, heavenly hope, and unceasing mercy that you give others, may you be contagious for the cause of Christ!

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis

