

## **Hell No Series: Friends Don't let Friends Go to Hell**

### **March 25, 2007**

Introduction:

*Keith Comp gets on stage and welcomes congregation. Gives them a funny look.*

**Simon:** Well, get on with it! Amaze us! Come On!

*Keith tells a really corny joke and Simon throws his hands in the air.*

A young fiancé who, after learning that her husband to be didn't believe like she did, cried to her mother saying, "Mom, what should I do? How can I change his thinking? He says he doesn't believe in hell?" The Mother said, "Honey, that's alright, you marry him and both of us will make him believe in hell."

**Simon:** Well, that was just spectacular. I really feel my Sunday morning was well spent! Heaves a sigh and flops back in his chair.

**Paula:** Well, it wasn't the funniest joke. I'm sure with time you will get better though!

**Randy:** Again, no yo! I just wasn't entertained!

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**Keith:** Wait a second, wait a second...you guys are great...seriously...I really appreciate you guys.

**Simon:** What do you mean by that?

**Keith:** Well, Sir...you really are an honest person, I appreciate the truth that you bring. Ma'am, you are so sweet and such an encourager. And, Dawg, you seem to relate to everyone...relationships seem really important to you.

**Paula:** You mean...you like us?

**Keith:** Yeah...for the most part...yeah.

**Randy:** I guess there's no reason to continue the show...someone likes us! *(they all get up, smiling, genuinely happy, as if a great weight has been taken off of them)*

**Keith:** *(as they exit, Keith will invite them to go to the connection point and learn how to be people).*

*Keith will begin his sermon at this point!*

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## REAL Introduction:

We've spent the last couple of weeks talking about the reality of Hell. Last week, Tim shared with us that the choice is ours, the question isn't, "Would a loving God send someone to Hell?" The question is, "What would a loving God do?" God sent His Son to this world, so that we would be saved from Hell, but the choice is yours.

So, as the church....more specifically as a follower of Christ...what should you do about Hell?

This past week, as I was working on this idea that friends don't let friends go to Hell, a thought came to mind:

- Have you ever been driving...things a running so smooth, but the other side of the highway is bumper to bumper... "man, I'm so glad that's not me!"
- In our world of traveling...one destination is as good as another.
- But our spiritual journeys, we've learned, the destinations are Heaven and Hell
- You're watching people...and you know...you know they are headed in the wrong direction...and at times we simply think to ourselves... "man, I'm so glad that's not me!"

Look a little closer at the ones headed the wrong direction, that are living life with out Jesus, whose faces do you see? I'm not asking you to judge them, it's not your job to condemn, but stop excusing yourself from the process, stop throwing away the mission of bringing others to Christ because you don't want to offend.

Charles Spurgeon wrote these words:

**"Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of that.... The saving of souls, if a man has once gained love to perishing sinners and his blessed Master, will be an all-absorbing passion to him. It will so carry him away, that he will almost forget himself in the saving of others..... If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for."**

We are not okay as a church with people going to Hell. We will mess up our building, we will put in long hours, we will sacrifice nice materialistic things, we will risk offending others, we will fight tooth and nail, we will love those considered unlovable, doing whatever it takes to win the lost and keep someone from going to Hell. But in many cases the only one that can reach someone, isn't a pastor, isn't an outreach program, isn't a teacher...the only one that can reach some people...is you. You are the only Jesus they may ever know. With that in mind...each of us has a responsibility to bring others to Christ.

- PRAYER

Mark 2:1-12 (Read through it once)

Four Corners of Evangelism (telling others the “good news”)

### **Corner #1 - Acknowledge the Need**

- Four guys, saw their friend and they each knew he needed Jesus
- You would think this would be simple, but we fail to see the need, so we should:
  - slow down
  - open our eyes - Eph. 6:12
  - have “kingdom thinking” - Matthew 9:36-38
    - concerned with eternity
    - compassion for the lost
    - compelled to win others for Jesus
- Practical Step #1 - Who is God laying on your heart as someone who needs Jesus?  
Write their names down!

### **Corner #2 - Accept the Responsibility**

- Four guys, pick up the mat and carry a friend
- Psalm 40:6-8 - take joy in doing the will of God
  - When you accept Jesus as “Lord” you are saying, “I will do whatever you say.”
  - His will is not a burden, but a blessing
- Practical Step #2 - Share with your spouse, your small group or another friend, who God is laying on your heart. Stating that you will do whatever it takes to bring them to Christ.

### **Corner #3 - Act on the Opportunity**

- Four guys, go up on a roof and tear it open
- Psalm 40:9-10 - Take advantage of “God-Given” opportunities
  - Pray for these opportunities
  - Moments of crisis
  - Regardless of the mess
- Practical Step #3 - Plan a lunch, a fun time, men’s bball on Thursdays, Women’s Day of Learning, a golf-outing...whatever interest you both and look for opportunities to share (DO NOT SHOVE JESUS DOWN THEIR THROATS!)

**Corner #4 - Allow Jesus to do His Thing**

- Four guys, let go of their friend and place him in front of Jesus
- 1 Corinthians 3:5-8
  - Keep praying
  - Be diligent (watering)
- Practical Step #4 - Take them some place where they can meet Jesus (church, a special program, share your testimony). ANNOUNCE EASTER INVITES!!

**Conclusion:**

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian wrote this, "The church is only the church when it exists for others."

**- PRAYER**

**- INVITATION**