

Church in the Community -10 Jesus Won Their Confidence

(Pass out verses to read.)

Luke 5:15, ESV “But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities”.

Winning Confidence (Sunday)

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." {MH 143.3}

Confidence in Latin is composed of the words *con*, meaning “with,” and *fides* meaning “faith.”

In Hebrew the main root for “faith” is *e-mu-nah*, from which we get the word *amen*. The basic idea is that of constancy, continuity, and reliability. It gives the idea of something solid, firm, in which one can trust and believe.

In the Greek New Testament the root word that is used to convey faith, belief is “*pistis*” [pees-tees] meaning belief, trust, absolute certainty, reliability, and assurance.

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Genesis 15:6 (NKJV) *And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

***Numbers 14:11 (NKJV)** *Then the Lord said to Moses: “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?”*

Isaiah 7:9 (NKJV) *The head of Ephraim is Samaria, And the head of Samaria is Remaliah’s son. If you will not believe, Surely you shall not be established.’ ”*

Habakkuk 2:4 (NKJV) *“Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.*

Trusting in people can be disappointing

Micah 7:5 (NKJV) *Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your confidence in a companion; Guard the doors of your mouth From her who lies in your bosom.*

Psalms 118:9 (NKJV) *It is better to trust in the Lord Than to put confidence in princes.*

Psalms 146:3–4 (NKJV) *Do not put your trust in princes, Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help. His spirit departs, he returns to his earth; In that very day his plans perish.*

Jeremiah 17:5 *Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the Lord.*

A Careful Balance (Monday)

John 13:35 (NKJV) *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

***1 Peter 4:8 (NKJV)** *And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”*

“The greatest obstacle to the spread of Christianity is the missionaries.”

Acts 2:46–47 (NKJV) *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

1 Corinthians 3:1–4 (NKJV) *And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ²I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? ⁴For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?*

Social Capital (Tuesday)

Proverbs 22:1 (NKJV) *A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.*

Ecclesiastes 7:1 (NKJV) *A good name is better than precious ointment,*
Acts 7:9–10 (NKJV) *“And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him ¹⁰and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.*

1 Peter 4:15 (NKJV) *But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters.*

1 Timothy 5:13 (ESV) *Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.*

***1 Timothy 3:7** (NKJV) *Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

2 Corinthians 6:3 (ESV) *We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,*

1 Thessalonians 4:11–12 (ESV) *and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you,¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.*

The Value of Social Capital (Wednesday)

Nehemiah 2:1–8 (NKJV) *And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before.² Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart."*

So I became dreadfully afraid,³ and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?"

⁴ Then the king said to me, "What do you request?"

So I prayed to the God of heaven.⁵ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."⁶ Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.⁷ Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah,⁸ and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

“The means that he [Nehemiah] lacked he solicited from those who were able to bestow. And the Lord is still willing to move upon the hearts of those in possession of His goods, in behalf of the cause of truth. Those who labor for Him are to avail themselves of the help that

He prompts men to give. . . . The donors may have no faith in Christ, no acquaintance with His word; but their gifts are not on this account to be refused.” - Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 634.

Favor With All People (Thursday)

Luke 12:48 (NKJV) *But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.*

***Luke 16:10** (KJV) *He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.*

Deuteronomy 4:5–8 (NKJV) *“Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.⁶ Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’⁷ “For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?⁸ And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?”*

A few years ago a Seventh-day Adventist congregation was thinking about this question: Would our community miss us if somehow our congregation disappeared overnight?