

High Impact Christianity – What you’ve seen in Me

Last week I started a new series entitled “High Impact Christianity.” The reason I chose this topic was to challenge the church and make it more effective in the outside community. If we are going to impact on society we need positive direction, but we will also require strong Christian character. There are distinct character traits, seen clearly in the lives of the apostles that are a source of inspiration and should cause us to take affirmative action. So in order to identify these traits I’ve chosen *buzz* phrases that are easy to remember.

The first was “Such As I Have” and the message was very simple. *Give what you have and God will give what you don’t have* – supernatural **power!** Then we studied the phrase “One Thing I Do,” which emphasises the need for us to keep doing what is **fresh** and to stop building on the same old foundations. Today we will be examining the need to have sufficient confidence to be able to ask others, “**What have you seen in me?**”

This is a very interesting question. What have others seen in you? Have they seen confusion, fear, doubt or unbelief? Or have they seen religious dogmatism, pessimism or lack of enthusiasm? Please understand, what others have seen in you will either attract them or repel them. In fact, the apostle Paul was so sure of what *others had seen in him* that he told his followers to do exactly what they had seen in him.

To get to this place, it doesn’t matter where you’ve come from or what you’ve done in the past, it has only to do with your divine purpose on this earth. In **Galatians 1:13-24**, the Paul explains how he changed from a fanatical zealot of Judaism into an equally zealous Christian missionary. And He put it all down to divine intervention. He was convinced God had done something inside him that had caused His Son Jesus to shine through (*verse 16*).

Paul was so aware that Jesus could be comprehensibly seen in him, he was prepared to say, in **Philippians 4:9**, “**Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.**”

Another translation says, “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or **seen in me** – *put it into practice*. And the God of peace will be with you.” The AMP says, “Practice what you have learned and received and heard and **seen in me**, and *model your way of living on it*, and the God of peace (of untroubled, undisturbed well-being) will be with you.”

Paul sets himself up as a model Christian. He urges others to practice the things which they have learned from him; however, he also goes one step further by telling them to **do** that which they have **seen** in his own life. WOW! The thought here is that Jesus made Himself visible in the apostle’s life. But how did He do that? Jesus made Himself near and dear in every experience that Paul had because Paul allowed Him to!

All the people out there that God wants to touch need to see Jesus in you. They don’t need to see religion or good intentions – they want the real thing! Jesus will always validate Himself, but He needs your co-operation in order to reveal His divine attributes to those in need. Therefore, you must learn to be “Jesus-inside” minded. Notice how Paul was bold enough to declare something only those who had seen Jesus in the flesh could say – “**what was heard, seen and touched.**”

1 John 1-4, “That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked upon**, and our hands have **handled**, concerning the Word of life – the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us – that which we have **seen** and **heard** we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your **joy may be full.**”

Paul knew how profoundly important it was for people to meet with Jesus. And even though He was no longer present in the flesh, He could still be *heard* and *seen* in God’s people. We do not need to take ourselves out there – we need to take Jesus out there! People need to see, hear and handle the Word of Life – they need to have fellowship with the risen Christ! The million dollar question is this... Are you prepared to take Jesus to a lost and dying world?

But a word of caution – it’s going to be very difficult to introduce others to someone you do not know! So, how familiar are you with the Jesus that lives on the inside of you? Do you have the confidence in Him to let Him shine through?

In **John 14:23** Jesus says, ***“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to Him and make Our home with (in) him.”*** When referring to the Holy Spirit a few verses earlier, Jesus states, ***“But you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*** **Philippians 2:13** says ***“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”***

By being “God-inside” minded you will benefit greatly in your Christian walk and establish a true sense of harmony. But more importantly, others will benefit even more! The Christ – “*God’s anointed (in you)*” – wishes to reveal Himself to every person who has a need. The only possible obstacle standing in His way is YOU.

Christ will always make a glorious impact on the minds of men. But the design of the devil is to keep men in ignorance, and to keep the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ out of the world. Often the rejection of the gospel can be traced to the wilful blindness and wickedness of the human heart. However, more than this, it can be attributed to lack of exposure to the person of Jesus Christ. It is pleasant to behold the sun in the sky; but it is more pleasant and profitable for Jesus to shine into the hearts of men.

As light was present at the very beginning of the first creation; so too, the treasure of Christ’s light seeks to find a home in earthen vessels. This is a New Creation reality. Christ in you, and you in Christ! Working together to change the world.

God could have sent angels to make known the glorious truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, but he chose humbler, weaker vessels, so that through them His Son Jesus may be made visible. So let’s become as bold as the apostle Paul and declare to others that they can do according to what they have seen IN US! And let everything we do, or become involved in, make Christ more visible and more approachable for all!