

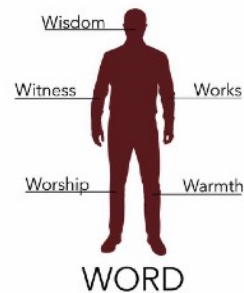
Spiritual Fitness — Do I Delight In The Church?

January 29, 2023

Good morning CrossWinds! This month, many of us focus on physical fitness as we try to get in shape after Christmas. As we are focusing on physical fitness, Pastor Jordan and I thought this would be a good time to teach a series on spiritual fitness. What does it look like to be a healthy Christian?

To give us an outline for the series, we came up with six W's. These are six qualities of a healthy Christian life, that all begin with the letter W. These qualities help us better understand the healthy Christian life. Since repetition is the mother of all learning, let's review these qualities to help us remember them.

What Does A Healthy Christian Look Like?



Word — A healthy Christian knows God through the applied word of God under the direction and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

We looked at this in the first week of our study. God's Word describes itself as living and active, sharper than a double-edged sword. When we read the Bible, study the Bible, and are under the sound teaching of the Bible, God uses His word to give us spiritual life. Since it is so easy to drift from God's Word, the daily reading of God's word is the foundation of maintaining a healthy Christian life. I know many of you began a regular Bible reading plan after that week.

Worship — A healthy Christian manifests a lifestyle of worship and prayer based on close daily communion with God.

We looked at worship and prayer last week. We learned that prayer in a healthy Christian's life is like breathing to human life. It is something we do all the time. Sometimes we pray out loud. Sometimes we pray in our hearts. Talking to God in prayer is something a healthy Christian does all the time. We also looked at worship and learned that worship is giving God our best not just on Sundays but every day of the week. Our God is the best so we worship him by giving him our best.

Warmth — A healthy Christian engages in meaningful life-on-life relationships that reflect the love of God and leave people impacted and changed.

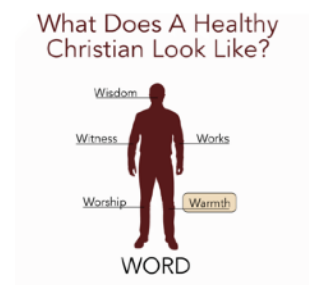
We will look at this today.

Witness — A healthy Christian lives under the commission of Christ to win and grow disciples, integrating outreach into all aspects of life.

Works — A healthy Christian builds up the body of Christ through their spiritual gifts and passions.

Wisdom — A healthy Christian manages their skills, money, and time putting them under the Lordship of Jesus.

This morning, we are looking at the topic of warmth, which seems appropriate on a bitterly cold day in January. By warmth, we are not talking about temperature warmth that comes from a fire but relational warmth that comes from people who love and care about us. A few weeks ago, before the Spencer Campus moved into its new facility, the heat went out in the old church they used. People in church wore winter jackets, hats, and mittens to keep warm.



I thought to myself, I would rather go to a church that is physically cold, but relationally warm, than go to a church that is physically warm, but the people are relationally cold. How about you? What would turn you off more at church? A building at 60 degrees or people who don't care about you and don't talk to you?

The Bible tells us our love for one another, the relational warmth, and the genuine care we have for one another is evidence of our faith. The relational warmth of a church is a measure of the spiritual health of the people in the church.

We know that we have passed out of death into life, [because we love the brothers...](#) 1 John 3:14 (ESV)

I am sure the majority of us are here because we love Jesus. While we love Jesus, far too many Christians do not love the church that Jesus loves. There is a disconnect here. Our brothers and sisters in Christ are not perfect. They can be annoying, just like us. Our brothers and sisters in Christ have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them, just like us. We will spend eternity with them. If we love Jesus, then we ought to love our brothers and sisters in Jesus. If Jesus loves them and died for them, why do we refuse to have an interest in them?

Remember Jesus died for the church. He didn't just die for me. Jesus loves the church. He doesn't just love me. If Jesus loves the church and he died for the church, we must love the church and the people for whom Christ died.

So I ask you, "You may love Jesus, but do you love the church?"

We should not love the church and the people in it only because he have to, but we should love the church naturally because we want to. Loving the

church should not be something we do like eating Brussel sprouts, that is something we only do out of obligation because it is good for us.

When God transforms a person, so they become a Christian, there is a supernatural change in a person's heart. Part of that change is that they love Jesus. Another part of that change is that God will give them love for the church in addition to Jesus. Love for the church comes naturally out of a healthy Christian's heart.

When I was a single man in college, my parents had friends with a daughter that was my age. They were trying to get me interested in her. One time I came home from college to find a large framed picture of her on my dresser. I love my mom, but I wasn't happy with her putting that picture on my dresser. I was not attracted to that girl. I was not interested in that girl. I told my mother not to try that again.

When I met Cindy, it was different. I was attracted to her. It came naturally for me to want to spend time with her. I naturally put a picture of her on my desk in my dorm room. I had a picture of her on the dashboard of my car. I wanted to be with her all the time because of the desires in my heart. It is the same thing with the church. Nobody can force you to love the church. Trying to force someone to love the church is like trying to get a young man to like a girl in whom he has no interest. It is not happening.

When Christians are healthy, they will naturally find themselves drawn to the church, wanting to spend time in the church, and be around the people of the

church even if they are different. That is because the spirit of Christ in them draws them to other Christians, like a man is drawn to the woman he loves.

This morning, as we look at a healthy Christian's relational warmth, we will look at our love for the church and those who are part of the church family. If people are not in love with the local church and the other Christians in their church, there will be little relational warmth in the church. We will examine this topic under three headings. 1. How are Christians built for others in the local church? 2. Why should we love the church? 3. Why should I become a member of CrossWinds Church?

How are Christians are built for others in the local church?

We are not saved individually but into the body of Christ.

In the church, we often ask if people have trusted Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. While I respect the good intentions of the question and the evangelistic focus, it can be a misleading question. It inadvertently communicates that Jesus is our personal savior. It can communicate that we are saved by Jesus, and after being saved by Jesus, we live as a hermit with Jesus. It can leave people thinking that after becoming a Christian, we are independent and unconnected to other Christians. That is not true. When we become Christians, we are not just made right with God through Jesus, but we are saved into the body of Christ. We are saved into a family with other Christians.

Paul in the Corinthian letters tells us that as Christians we are all part of the body of Christ with Jesus as our head. We are connected to one another, just like a hand is connected to an arm and an arm is connected to a body. Jesus

saves us not to be alone but to be connected with other Christians and to play our role in Christ's body on earth, which is the church.

A better question to ask than, "Have you trusted in Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?" Might be, "Are you a part of the body of Christ?" We are saved into relationships with one another.

Just as the coals of a campfire only stay hot when they are kept together, in the same way, the only way we will stay spiritually hot for Christ is if we regularly meet together with other Christians in the church. If coals are pulled apart from one another, they grow cold over time. When coals are kept with one another, they burn hotter over the passing of time. It is the same way with Christians.

The Bible frequently speaks of the fact that God intended Christians to be connected to one another in the local church. Sometimes we miss this in the Bible because in the English language, the word *you* is the same if plural or singular. In other languages, there is a different word for *you* plural and *you* singular. Let me show you some verses where *you* is in the plural reminding us how God intends for us to be with one another.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)

The *you* in this verse is plural, not singular. It says that when Christians gather in the local church, God's spirit dwells among the gathered local church in a special way that is deeper and richer than any of us experiences in relationship with Jesus in an individual way.

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Ephesians 2:22 (ESV)

This is another verse where *you* is plural. It reminds us that God's spirit dwells among Christians when they gather in the local church. God doesn't dwell in the church building. God dwells in a special way among his people when they assemble for worship, prayer, and the study of the Word in the local church.

A few years ago a woman stopped at a church I was pastoring. She asked if she could go into the worship space to pray. She was facing a hard time in her life. She told me she felt closer to God in the church. Of course, she was free to pray in the church. I wanted to tell her that if she really wanted to be close to God, she needed to come on Sunday when God's people were here. God dwells among his people in a special way when they gather. Unlike the Old Testament, he no longer resides in a building.

So the first point we need to remember is that Jesus doesn't just save us into a right relationship with God, but he brings us into a body of other Christians, the church. He connects us with one another. He doesn't leave us independent from others. Let's look at another way we are built for others in the church.

God gifted us to serve others in our local church.

When we trust in Jesus as our savior, we are not just forgiven of our sins and grafted into the church, which is Christ's body, but each of us is also supernaturally gifted by God with at least one spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts are given to us, so we can serve others in our local church. We are gifted by God to serve others because our gifts are needed for the health of the church. Paul tells us that when one member of the church chooses to not use their gifts, the entire body suffers.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 1 Corinthians 12:14–18 (ESV)

If God gifted someone to be an eye in the body of Christ and that person chose not to use their gift in the church, the entire body will suffer because it is missing an eye. If someone is gifted as a hand, their gifts are needed in the church for the health of the church. If they choose to not use their gifts, the entire body is handicapped.

Each of us is gifted by God to serve in our local church, and God specifically put us in our local church with at least one gift to serve others in our church. When we choose not to serve, everyone suffers. God didn't save us to sit in a church. He saved us to serve others in the church.

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good,... 1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)

Do I get to choose my spiritual gifts? No, we don't. It says God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. God chose the gift he wanted you to have to serve others. I don't know what spiritual gifts you have, but I do know everybody who has trusted in Jesus has at least one and your local church needs each of us to discover our gifts and use them.

What are spiritual gifts? The Bible lists many. I am not going to go through all the Scriptures showing them. Let me share some. There is teaching, wisdom, knowledge, mercy, administration, giving, and encouragement.

How do we discover the gift(s) we have? It isn't that difficult. Simply get involved serving in your church. The areas where you have joy and fruitfulness are probably your gifts.

We must remember our gifts are not given to us to serve ourselves. They are given to us to serve others. It would be weird for someone with the gift of teaching to teach themselves in front of a mirror. It would be weird for someone with the gift of encouragement to encourage themselves. Our gifts are meant for the body, and they are needed by the body.

This is why it is totally weird when Christians are uncommitted and unconnected to a local church. This is why it is weird when Christians refuse to build relationships with others in their church or to serve others in the church.

Let me give you an example of how our gifts work. This is a bad time of year. Things are cold. It is depressing. We have war in Europe. Inflation is out of control. Even eggs are expensive. Does anybody else have a bit of that seasonal depression going on? On top of that, as a pastor, preaching is exhausting. I may look fine on Sunday morning but all the study, memorization and the delivery of sermons is exhausting. On Sunday afternoons, I am exhausted. I can find myself depressed as the adrenaline of Sunday morning goes out of my body. You can ask Cindy. She will tell you. On some Sundays, I am completely shot.

This is why I am so thankful I am part of a local church. Some of you have the gift of encouragement. In those times, I need to be encouraged with your gift. Some of you tell me on Sunday that you are thankful for the sermon. Some of you tell me how you are growing in Jesus and becoming more like Christ

because of what God is doing through CrossWinds. Others of you are super sweet. Some of you have written brief notes of encouragement. When I am exhausted, those notes and words of encouragement are helpful. They are needed. Thank you for using your gift. I need you to use your gift. At this time of year, everyone in the room needs you to use your gift of encouragement. This is why we are part of the body!

In addition to spiritual gifts, which are essential for the church's health, God also gives us natural gifts. They can be used in other ways and places, but God also wants us to use them in the church as part of the body. Some of you are athletic. Some of you are organizers. Some of you are great with spreadsheets. Some of you are techies. God gave you those natural gifts and wants you to use them to serve others in the church. For example, if you have techie gifts, we can use you in the sound booth.

The point is that God gave each of us spiritual and natural gifts which are essential for the operation of the church. The church is what Jesus loves. The church is what Jesus died for to save with his blood.

So I ask you, are you committed and connected to the local church, or are you one of those modern independent Christians who only listen to church on the radio? Do you simply listen to a podcast on Sunday or are you committed and connected to a local body of believers where you need to be served by other Christians and where you need to serve your brothers and sisters in Jesus?

Let's look at another way God has built us for others in the church.

God wants us to fulfill the one-another commands in our local church.

Last year, I gave a message on the virtual church. We discussed why God doesn't want us to stay home and watch online. God wants us to physically attend and participate in a local church with our flesh-and-blood brothers and sisters in Christ. One of the reasons we know this is because the Bible gives many one-another commands. If we are not in a local church connected to others in that church, we cannot fulfill the one-another commands of Scripture. Let me show you what I mean.

We are to confess our sin to one another.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another... James 5:16 (ESV)

If we are not a regular part of a local church where we have genuine relationships with other Christians in that church, how can we confess our sins to one another?

One of my sons attends a large church in Ames. I was talking to him last week. He said that as soon as church was over, he rushed out the door to get to his car before the traffic jam at the exit. He was thrilled he beat the crowd and escaped from church early.

I told him, what are you doing!? When the service is over, don't rush out of the church. Stay for a bit and build relationships with your brothers and sisters in Christ at church. You will never get to the point of being able to confess your sins to other Christians if you don't stay long enough to start building relationships with other Christians at church.

Encourage one another.

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

When Paul wrote this, he was writing this to the church in Thessalonica. He was not writing to an individual Christian. Paul assumes these Christians meet regularly at church for worship. When they met, they were to go out of their way to encourage one another. This assumes the people in the church of Thessalonica didn't rush out of service to be first in line at the buffet. They took time to know one another in the local church. They took the initiative to encourage their brothers and sisters in Christ in their local church. They were a warm church filled with relationally warm people.

Bear one another's burdens.

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

This past week, Bruce Hanson died in a snowmobile accident. I remember officiating the wedding of Bruce and Deb. What a beautiful couple. Bruce and Deb were out-of-state when this happened. When this happened, the church family consistently reached out to Deb to comfort her. They are caring for her. They are standing with her. This past week, Deb told me she couldn't imagine going through this loss without her family and her church family. Bearing one another's burdens is what we do for our brothers and sister in Christ.

Let me push this a bit. I am about to make some of you uncomfortable. I am always encouraging you to be part of a Life Group. I know many of you are busy. If you are in a Life Group that only meets once a month, that is ok with me. My Life Group only meets twice a month. Others of you are in a Life Group that

meets every week. In the church, the deepest and strongest connections you make will be in your Life Group where you talk about and pray about the real issues in your life.

Right now, the people that are calling the most to love on Deb and going out of their way the most to care for Deb are the people in her Life Group. They know her. They love her. In CrossWinds, they are the people closest to her.

I do not want you to be without those close relationships in the church. All of us need those kinds of relationships. If you are not part of a Life Group, today, make a decision to find one and be part of one.

Pray for one another

[...pray for one another... James 5:16 \(ESV\)](#)

If you are one of those unconnected Christians, who is not committed and connected in their local church, who will be there to pray for you when your world falls apart?

I think of Nikki Bergman when she was pregnant with precious Yennefer. Nikki came down with COVID. Her oxygen levels were dangerously low. They had her in Sioux Falls and were concerned for the baby. The entire church body, this local church, mobilized around praying for Nikki, Yennefer, and her husband Dana. The church tried to get behind helping them and encouraging them. If they were not connected to a local church, who would pray for them in those times?

Show hospitality to one another.

[Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:9 \(ESV\)](#)

We are to open our homes to others and have our homes be places where the love of Christ is experienced. In this verse, we are not commanded to open

our homes to anyone on the street. Here we are commanded to open our homes to other Christians in the local church. We are to do this willingly and joyfully without grumbling.

One way our Life Group puts this into practice is that we rotate homes when we meet. We could meet at church, but it is better when we meet in people's homes. First, that guarantees home cooking. Second, we build closer relationships in homes. Third, we get to know one another better. If we are not part of a local church, who are the people to whom we open our home?

Love One Another.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7 (ESV)

If we are not committed and connected to a local church, like CrossWinds, who are the people we are commanded to love?

Speaking of loving other Christians, that brings me to my next point. As Christians, we should not just love one another, but we should love the local church. Let me give you some reasons why we should love our church.

Why should we love the church?

The church is the only thing Jesus promised to build and bless.

With all the things Jesus could have done, there is only one institution Jesus promised to bless. That is the church. Jesus said to Peter...

...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

Jesus didn't say he would build a college, a homeless ministry, an orphanage, or any other good thing. He only promised that he would build his church. This is why, as Christians, we must take seriously the importance of the

local church. The local church is what Jesus promises he will build. It is the only organization we know he is behind.

How will Jesus build his church? It will be through the faithful teaching and preaching of the word of God in the church. It will also be by the people of God using their God-given gifts to love and serve one another so local churches are relationally warm and welcoming places. The preaching of the Word of God and the warmth of the people of God draws the world to Christ.

[By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:35 \(ESV\)](#)

I like to think of the church like a warm fire on a cold night. People are naturally drawn to the relational warmth of the church in a cold world. When they come to church, it is different from the world. In the church, people have a love for one another. It is refreshing. It is a little taste of heaven on earth, and people want to find out more.

The church because it is going to win in the end.

I like to be part of a winning team. Many people start a business, but it fails. Everyone wants to be part of a winning business like Apple, Google, or Tesla. I can't guarantee you that the career you give your life to will be a success. I can't guarantee you that the funds you put into the stock market will be a success. People give their time and energy to things that fail all the time.

There is only one thing you can give your life to that is a guaranteed winner. That is the church. Jesus said he would build his church, and the gates of hell would not prevail against it. Jesus said nothing will stop him from building his

church. Whatever energy and time we give to loving and serving others in the church will lead to guaranteed success in the big picture of life and eternity.

What are you giving your life to? What are you giving your energy to? Your career, while important, is not guaranteed to succeed. The only thing you and I are a part of that has guaranteed success in this world is the church. This is why we should love the church. This is why it is foolish for Christians to live a life that is unconnected and uninvolved with their local church.

The church is God's most precious possession on earth.

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. Acts 20:28 (ESV)

God paid an incredible price for his bride, the church. When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane sweating blood because he knew the horrors in front of him on the cross, he did it because he loved the church. He paid for the church with his blood. To speak against the local church or to diminish the church in any way is an insult to Jesus, who sees the church as his most precious possession on earth. This is another reason why we must love the church.

The church is the best place of worship.

We can worship God privately in our spirit.

...who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus... Philippians 3:3 (ESV)

While we can worship God privately in our hearts. We can also worship God in the privacy of our AirPods on our cell phones. With Apple Music and Spotify, we can listen to amazing worship bands from Nashville and Australia. It is a privilege to worship with them through the technology God has given.

We must realize that worshipping in church with our brothers and sisters in Christ is better than worshipping at home alone with our AirPods. The music played by the worship team at church may not be as professional as what we can find on the Internet. Here is the difference. When we worship in church, we are surrounded by the voices of our brothers and sisters singing to God with us. We join our voices with their voices adoring Jesus. That doesn't happen in the privacy of our homes.

In addition, when we gather as Christians, God's spirit dwells among God's gathered people in a more intimate way than he dwells among us when we are scattered people.

Worship in the church is always better. This is another reason to love our local church.

5. The church matures us in Christ.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV)

How do we stimulate one another to love and good works? The writer of Hebrews tells us. By not neglecting to meet together.

I debated about sharing this, but I decided to tell you. A few years ago, a family stopped attending CrossWinds. As a pastor, when I noticed they were gone, I reached out to see if they were ok.

They told me, they liked CrossWinds, but they liked staying home and watching Rick Warren and Saddleback Church in California. As a pastor, what do you say to that? Rick Warren is an amazing pastor. He is a gifted communicator. I

can't compete. I am the pastor of a small church in Iowa. I am sure Rick Warren will be better.

To be honest, at the end of the day, I don't think they will end up more spiritually mature because they stayed home and watched Rick Warren. They would end up more spiritually mature if they came to their local church where there were other Christians who would stir them up to greater levels of love and good works. By staying home and simply watching a message online apart from other people, who will encourage you to grow in your life? Where will your loving Christ-centered relationships come from that will help you grow in Christ.

Those things are only found in a healthy local church. They are not found by staying home and virtually watching a gifted pastor in a mega church. We love our church because it is what God will use to lead us to greater spiritual maturity.

My last point is quick. Most of it is a recapitulation of what we covered. It is simply asking the million-dollar question. If we are built for others in the church, and we need others in the church, what is holding some of us back from becoming fully engaged members of CrossWinds church?

Why should I be a member of CrossWinds church?

We are not saved to be alone. We are saved into the church.

We are a stone in a building.

...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5 (ESV)

Peter pictures Christians like stones in a building. Each of us plays a role in building a spiritual house. We are not saved to be alone. We are saved into relationships with one another and to play our role in God's house.

We are a body part that is not designed to function alone.

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them... Romans 12:4–6 (ESV)

In Romans, Paul says the same thing he said in 1 Corinthians. It is the analogy of the body. We are part of the body of Christ. We are gifted to be different from one another, but we are individually members of one another. We are to use our gifts to serve one another.

We are needed at CrossWinds and gifted by God to serve others.

We looked at this earlier. Just as the body needs an eye or the entire body is handicapped, our church body needs us to use our gifts to serve others, or the body will be handicapped and not achieve its potential.

We are commanded to use our gifts to serve others at CrossWinds in the one-another commands.

Think of all the one-another commands. If we are not committed to CrossWinds, who are the people that the one-another commands apply to in our life?

The church is the only institution God promised to build and bless.

The time we put into serving others in the church will have guaranteed results. God is behind the church. He is committed to the church. Using our gifts to serve others is a guaranteed good investment of our life.

The church is God's most precious possession on earth.

Remember what Jesus paid in order to bring CrossWinds Church into existence. He paid for CrossWinds with his own blood. He freed us from sin by

his own blood. This is why Jesus loves the church. Jesus loves CrossWinds Church. Why would we not want to be a member of what is so precious to Jesus?

The church is the place where God uniquely dwells among His people.

As a Christian, why would you hesitate to become a member of a place where God's spirit uniquely dwells? If you want more of Jesus, be committed to the church of Jesus. This is why I am puzzled by anyone who attends CrossWinds but is hesitant to become a member of CrossWinds?

Regularly attending and serving in the local church matures us in Christ.

Like you, I want to become more and more like Jesus. Over time, I want my life to become a better reflection of Jesus. That will not happen to me or anyone else by living in isolation away from the church. We grow best when we are fully involved and use our gifts in the church. If that is true, why would anyone hesitate in becoming a member?

Choosing not to join and serve in the local church is an unnecessary disobedience.

Some day all of us will die. One day we will stand before Jesus and even though we are saved by Jesus, we will still give an account of our lives to Jesus at the Judgement Seat of Christ. How will we answer Jesus when he asks us about our commitment to and involvement in our local church? Jesus will remind us that he gifted us to serve others in the church. The church needed us to use our gifts. He gave us commands to love and serve others in the church. What will

we say to him when he asks why we stayed unconnected? When he asks us why we ran out the door and never took the time to build relationships with others?

If Jesus is not ashamed to call us His, why are we ashamed to belong to those who are His?

Jesus knows everything there is to know about us. He knows all of our sins and rebellion. If anyone should be ashamed to associate with us and love us, it would be Jesus. Jesus is not ashamed of us. If Jesus is not ashamed of us, why are we ashamed to connect with those Jesus loves?

Conclusion

I know this last point made some of us comfortable. Like a hammer, it is simply pounding home the reasons why it is incredibly important for each of us to be fully connected and engaged members at CrossWinds. Some of you are active and engaged members. If that is you, I thank you. Others of us, are still on the sidelines. If that is you, the action step from today's sermon is to commit yourself to be involved and active in your local church. For most of you, that is CrossWinds.

If we do that, it will help CrossWinds become a relationally warm place in a cold world where people will want to be with Christ because of the love they experience among God's people.



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, and time with his family. Feel free to contact him at www.Christ2RCulture.com (www.c2rc.com)

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