

DEAR FRIENDS

for missing
Worship Assembly

NKJV

adapted from *Following Up New Converts and Restoring the Erring.* B. C. Carr.

Outsider “I DON’T ‘FIT-IN’” * “CLOTHES” * “DON’T FEEL LIKE ONE OF THEM”

1. Arrange association with people with things in common.
2. (Acts 10:35) "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him."
(James 2:5) "Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?"

Preacher “I DON’T LIKE THE PREACHER”

1. Why? Doesn’t he preach the truth? Do you really know him?
2. Worship God. (1 Cor. 2:5) “that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”
(1 Cor. 4:6) “that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.”

Hypocrites “I KNOW SO MANY HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH”

1. Yes--Judas, Peter, many today—but do you see some good?
2. Are you without sin? (1 John 1:8-9) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(Matthew 7:1-5) "Judge not, that you be not judged. "For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; ..."

Church “I DON’T THINK I HAVE TO GO TO CHURCH TO BE A CHRISTIAN”

1. Must one love the Lord to be saved? (John 14:15) "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (John 15:14) "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."
2. We are to assemble. -Worship (Heb. 10:25) “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,” – (Ephesians 5:19) “speaking to one another in psalms...”; (Heb. 2:12) saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

friendly “THEY ARE NOT FRIENDLY”

1. I’m sorry—forgive me—let me arrange get acquainted event.
2. You can help me:
(Proverbs 18:24) “A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Visits “NO ONE EVER VISITS ME”

1. That’s why I am here now. When would you like other visits?
2. Do you visit many others? Who?
(James 1:27) Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. **Matthew 25:31-46.**

God “GOD HAS TURNED HIS BACK ON ME”

1. Why do you say this? Do you believe the Bible?
(1 Peter 5:7) “casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
2. Case of Job: Devil allowed to test. Children in Heaven. Possessions doubled (Romans 8:28) “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” **Heb. 12:5-11** “For whom the LORD loves He chastens”

Living “I’M NOT LIVING RIGHT—DON’T WANT TO BE A HYPOCRITE”

1. We want you to make a change (commend honesty).
(Acts 8:22) "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you."
2. What if you die in sin now?
(John 8:21) “Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come."

Husband “MY HUSBAND OBJECTS TO MY GOING TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY”

1. Can he save you or answer for you at Judgment?
(Matthew 10:37-38) ‘He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me”’
2. You are expected to obey as fit in the Lord. (Colossians 3:18) “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”

Wife "MY WIFE IS NOT INTERESTED – MUST GO BY MYSELF"

1. Don't you want her to be a Christian? Will you win her this way?
2. [If children] – must they go alone? (**Ephesians 6:4**) And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (**Proverbs 22:6**) Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Job "MY JOB REQUIRES ALL OF MY TIME AND ENERGY"

1. [Relate the story of the rich man] **Luke 12:16-21.**
2. Are you really happy? (**1 Peter 3:10-12**) For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."

Run "I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE CHURCH IS RUN"

1. [Find out if he has a (religious) hobby. Remind him that he may offer suggestions.]
2. Elders have the duty to oversee. (**1 Peter 5:1-3**) The elders who are among you I exhort... Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;

Offended "ONE OF THE MEMBERS OFFENDED ME. CAN'T WORSHIP IF HE ATTENDS"

1. Have you gone to him? (Matthew 18:15-17) "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church."
2. Duty to worship God:(**Matthew 4:10**) "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve."

Narrow minded "CHURCH IS TOO NARROW MINDED"

1. On what subject? (**Matthew 7:13-14**) "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.
2. Do you believe the Bible? (**Romans 3:3-4**)' For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words..."

Newly Moved "WE WERE FAITHFUL BEFORE MOVING HERE – HAVE NOT GOT STARTED"

1. What if Christ should come now (or you should die)? (**Matthew 25:11-12**) "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' "**(Revelation 2:10)** "Be faithful until death..."
2. Let me introduce you this Sunday. You know duty if once faithful.

Free day "SUNDAY IS THE ONLY DAY WE CAN VISIT-ENJOY RECREATION"

1. Whose day is Sunday? I know you would not steal. (**Revelation 1:10**) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, (**Psalms 118:24**) This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.
2. We are to assemble. -Worship (**Heb. 10:25**) "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," – (**Ephesians 5:19**) "speaking to one another in psalms..."; (**Heb. 2:12**) saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

Work "I'M NEVER ASKED TO DO ANYTHING. THEY DON'T NEED ME"

1. Have you offered? [Filled out a worksheet?]
2. Plenty to do. What will you do? I'll tell the elders.

Sermons "CHILDREN DON'T ENJOY IT... ALWAYS CONDEMNED FOR SOMETHING"

1. Was truth taught? Have they quit school? (**John 8:32**) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
2. You may be mistreating them. (**Ephesians 6:4**) And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (**1 Samuel 3:13**) "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them."

Physical problems "WAIT TILL I GET BETTER... THEN I'LL COME BACK"

1. Is this the procedure when one is sick?
2. Which is more important – body or soul? (**Matthew 10:28**) "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell". (**3 John 1:2**) Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.