

## BUILDING BRIDGES

Who was Paul trying to connect and link to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_ people

- 1) “The Jews” – The \_\_\_\_\_ (Churched)
- 2) “The Gentiles” – The \_\_\_\_\_ (Non-Churched)
- 3) “The Weak” – The \_\_\_\_\_ (Dechurched)

How did Paul attempt to connect and link these different people to Christ? By trying to find \_\_\_\_\_ with everyone.

- 1) “ \_\_\_\_\_ them...”
- 2) “Lived \_\_\_\_\_ them...”
- 3) “ \_\_\_\_\_ their weaknesses...”

Why did Paul try to connect and link all of these different people to Christ? Because the most important need for everyone in this world is to be \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1) “Free from \_\_\_\_\_, but a slave to \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 2) “Bring \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ...”
- 3) “I do everything to spread this Good News and share in its \_\_\_\_\_.”

*<sup>19</sup>Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ.... <sup>22</sup>I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.  
~ 1 Corinthians 9:19, 22b (NLT)*



*The mission of Potomac Heights Baptist Church is to provide a safe haven where lives can be changed and where changed lives are empowered to become fully devoted followers of Christ.*

### Building a Community for This Community

<sup>17</sup>But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. <sup>18</sup>They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.” <sup>19</sup>These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.<sup>20</sup>But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. <sup>22</sup>Be merciful to those who doubt; <sup>23</sup>snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. ~ Jude 17-23 (NIV)

### 2010 Marching Orders

- 1) Have nothing to do with \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith;
  - 2) Instead, join the \_\_\_\_\_ of the faith!
- ✓ Help people with their struggles in faith;
  - ✓ Help people who have no faith (at this time);
  - ✓ Help people who have faith but continue to be stained by sin.

## A BRIDGE

- 1) A \_\_\_\_\_ that allows \_\_\_\_\_ across an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) A \_\_\_\_\_ or means of \_\_\_\_\_ which provides a \_\_\_\_\_ or means of coming \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Classic "Bridge"

*"The world is profoundly different than it was at the middle of the last century, and everyone knows it. But knowing it and acting on it are two different things. So far, the North America church largely has responded with heavy infusions of denial, believing the culture will come to its senses and come back around to the church. The rate of disconnection indicates a dilemma far more serious than mere youthful rebellion... The further you go down the generational food chain, the lower the percentage each succeeding generation reports going to church." ~ Reggie McNeal*

### Good News/Bad News:

The current culture in North America is generally \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to what they know of \_\_\_\_\_.

A growing number in this current culture have a very \_\_\_\_\_ understanding of what our \_\_\_\_\_ is all about.

### Why do so many view Christians in such a negative way?

<sup>19</sup>Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. <sup>20</sup>When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. <sup>21</sup>When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. <sup>22</sup>When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. <sup>23</sup>I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings. ~ 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NLT)

What happened? How did this additional \_\_\_\_\_ take place?

- We forgot that we are to be "\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_" in "this world" (Matthew 5:16/John 17:15-18)
- We forgot that we are "on \_\_\_\_\_" with Jesus, serving as "His ambassadors" sent to reconcile the "world to Him" (Matthew 28:19-20/2 Corinthians 5:20-21)
- We forgot that we exist to "help people \_\_\_\_\_ with God" by showing them "the only way" to connect with God—Jesus! (John 14:6)
- We moved from being citizens of the "\_\_\_\_\_ " to being citizens of the "\_\_\_\_\_ "

*"They Like Jesus But Not the Church" – Dan Kimball*