

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

SERMON NOTES

“Repellent Magnetism”

Titus 3:1-11, Romans 14 (selected verses)

Who or what are you drawn to, like a magnet?

When magnets repel...

None, Dones, and “Spiritual But Not Religious”...

- Hypocritical
- Anti-sex
- Overly bureaucratic
- Too traditional
- Too isolated
- Too political
- Too judgmental
- Too shallow
- Anti-science
- Unopen to doubt, uncertainty or disagreement
- Inauthentic

“If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many are living without the strength, light, and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without the community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life. More than a fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which makes us feel safe, while at our door are people starving.”

Pope Francis

“You can safely assume that you’ve created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.”

Anne Lamott

Slander, Quarrelling and Judgement...

*"Do not get involved in foolish discussions about spiritual pedigrees or in quarrels and fights about obedience to Jewish laws. These things are useless and a waste of time."
(Titus 3:9)*

*"You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat."
(Romans 14:10)*

*"On the path to holiness it is essential that we make this journey with a spirit of humility in our judgments toward each other."
Bishop Ken Carter*

*"Jesus never says, 'Love your neighbor, but hate his sin.' Jesus says, 'Love your neighbor, but hate your own sin.'"
Tony Campolo*

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. (Romans 14:19)

*"Christianity is not a collection of truths to be believed, of laws to be obeyed, of prohibitions. That makes it very distasteful. Christianity is a person, one who loved us so much, one who calls for our love. Christianity is Christ."
Oscar Romero*

Additional Notes:

Questions for Further Reflection and Conversation...

- Do you find Christ “attractive?” Why or why not?
- Who are some of the most spiritually “attractive” people you can think of? What makes them “attractive?”
- Who are some of the most spiritually repellent people you can think of? What makes them “repellent?”
- How do you react to the list of reasons many are leaving Christianity? Do you agree with any of their reasons?
- Who is being “attracted” to Christ, through you?