



# One Step Further

## Class 3 - One Step Further in the Ecclesia

- Jesus didn't come to destroy the Law
- But, Jesus did want to get rid of **LEGALISTIC THINKING**
- The Fundamental Principle of **ONE STEP FURTHER** isn't intended to **DESTROY** the Law!
- Those that live by Faith are not free to flaunt the rules about what is right and wrong and do whatever they want
- Our righteousness needs to **EXCEED** that of the Pharisees!
- You have to go **ONE STEP FURTHER** than the Pharisees!
- Christ came to teach that Salvation is by the Grace of God, and not by any action of our own
- In that sense, it doesn't matter how many good things we do, we cannot earn our Salvation
- But, Christ's Fundamental Principle of Salvation by Grace is **NOT** a license to sin!
- Christ isn't offering us a restriction of morals so that we can live a life free from the stresses of laws and regulations
- Christ is calling us to go **ONE STEP FURTHER**
- To live lives of righteousness **NOT** because we are driven by the fear of punishment for not fulfilling the law
- But, to live lives of righteousness that are driven by the thanks and gratitude that comes from having our sins forgiven!
- To live lives of Righteousness that **EXCEEDS** those who live by **LEGALISTIC THINKING**
- Because Love is stronger than Fear

### SLIDE

- We have talked a bit about all of those decisions that exist in our lives on the spectrum between those things that are clearly sinful, and those times when we go **ONE STEP FURTHER**

- God has blessed with **Free Will**, and we are able to choose how we respond to the problems that face us in our daily life

### SLIDE

- Life is not “**Black and White**”

### SLIDE

- The questions we face in life **NEVER** have only two answers!
- There are always answers that are **CLEARLY WRONG**
- There are also answers that are **CLEARLY RIGHT**
- But, the majority lay in the vast gap between the two
- Decisions that we make in life that are clearly **NOT WRONG**, but are also not necessarily the **BEST** decision we could make
- A hallmark of these decisions is that they **ALWAYS** bring **COMPLICATIONS** into our life
- Not sin... But, **COMPLICATIONS**
- We talked a bit about what we do Monday through Friday – 9:00 to 5:00
- Hopefully, we opened your thinking up a bit to consider better alternatives in the decisions you make during your work life
- Let’s talk about the time we spend in the Ecclesia now
- Surely, we haven’t made any compromises there...
- Surely, we haven’t accepted anything but the **Ideal** in our Ecclesial Life, right?
- Surely, we have already gone **ONE STEP FURTHER** just by walking through the meeting house doors, and we don’t need to look any deeper...
- **Wrong...**
- Unfortunately, organized religion, **almost by definition**, accepts less than the ideal...

### SLIDE

- Many factors combine together to push our “Church Service” into an acceptable position somewhere short of the best place we could be:
- Several, or all of these factors come to play in our Ecclesia also
- The more acutely aware of them we are, the better chance we have of correcting them

## SLIDE

### 1) Tradition

- Doing things just because they've always been done that way is often a hallmark of mediocrity

## SLIDE

### 2) A Need (Desire?) for Order & Organization

- Too many people take 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:40 to heart - We lose the love and flavor of God's word by organizing it to death

## SLIDE

### 3) A Little Bit of Laziness

- After you've gone to meeting over 2000 times, it's hard to get excited about it - it simply becomes starts to become a habit

## SLIDE

### 4) Discomfort with Putting Ourselves Out

- Change is hard! Who want to put themselves out?
- I don't mean to imply that this is wrong...
- Let's all agree from the onset here, that there is nothing wrong with what we do on Sunday Mornings
- We are not sinning...
- I just feel that we could do more...
- How about some examples of what I mean?

## SLIDE

- First, let's take a look at our Memorial Service:
- Clearly there is a wrong choice:

## SLIDE

- **Not meeting together at all**

## SLIDE

- Hebrews 10:24-25

24) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

25) **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.

- Abandoning our relationship with our Lord, and never remembering his sacrifice on our behalf is Clearly Wrong...
- Jesus also tells us what is Clearly Right:

### SLIDE

- Breaking Bread **DAILY**

### SLIDE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:25-26

25) In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, **as often as you drink it**, in remembrance of me.”

26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

- Our fellowship was intended to extend into our daily, personal lives...
- That kind of was the idea behind the “**last supper**”...
- It was a meal that the first Christians shared together...
- Eating, talking, encouraging one another, praying for each other...
- As often as they got together...
- Not relegated to a certain day of the week...
- Not restricted to a symbolic sip of wine and crumb of bread...
- A daily remembrance of our Lord, around a meal of fellowship, would **CLEARLY** be the **RIGHT** choice...

### SLIDE

- We have decided to accept something less than that Ideal... A **WEEKLY** Service
- That, in and of itself, is not Right or Wrong...
- Just an alternative of meeting together once a week on Sundays and taking the bread and the wine together...
- It’s not **WRONG**, it’s just important that we all remember that accepting this road often doesn’t provide the rich, level of reward that comes from doing what is **CLEARLY RIGHT**...

## SLIDE

- The fellowship that we share will be stilted and will not grow as strong as it possibly could if we invested more time, energy, and intimate personal connection into our relationships...
- Our fellowship is not as strong as it would be if we shared a meal together every day and encouraged one another daily - and all the more as you see the Day approaching
- ***I'm not trying to condemn what we do...***
- I'm just trying to make sure that we all are aware of the consequences of the decision we have made
- This type of Religion is probably much more comfortable, and easier for us to grasp hold of...
- It would require a significantly greater amount of faith to be like the first Christians

## SLIDE

- Acts 2:42-47
  - 42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' **teaching** and the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and the **prayers**.
  - 43) And awe came upon every soul, and many **wonders** and **signs** were being done through the apostles.
  - 44) And all who believed **were together** and had **all things in common**.

## SLIDE

- 45) And they were **selling their possessions** and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, **as any had need**.
  - 46) And **day by day, attending the temple together** and **breaking bread** in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,
  - 47) **praising God** and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- The amount of Faith it would require to live that kind of life that s no small thing
  - The sacrifice and cooperation needed to get along
  - But the rewards would also be significantly greater...

## SLIDE

- To go **ONE STEP FURTHER** is to transform your **Memorial Service** into a **Memorial Life**
- A true Ecclesial Family that lives, loves and learns together

## SLIDE

- Another area of "**Organized Religion**" that demands a closer look is "**Fellowship**"...

## SLIDE

- It would be **CLEARLY WRONG** to “pretend” that you are in fellowship with everyone, and share the Lord’s Table with others regardless of their belief...

## SLIDE

- It would be great if our relationships were so intimate that we felt we could invest the time necessary to sit down with everyone that we would ever have contact with, and personally discuss their beliefs and work out agreements between us...
- This would be **CLEARLY RIGHT**, and no one could find fault in it...
- But, the consequences of being a member of a worldwide community cause us to choose something in the middle:

## SLIDE

- We issue a Statement of Faith, and base our Fellowship with others on acceptance of that Statement...
- Obviously, like every time you accept something less than that which is **CLEARLY RIGHT**, there is going to come some complications (that I’m sure you all are intimately familiar with...)

## SLIDE

- Thousands of hours have been spent by hundreds of Brethren dealing with the complications

## SLIDE

- When it comes to **Dis-fellowship** we often find ourselves traveling on some uncomfortable ground as well...

## SLIDE

- The **CLEARLY WRONG** choice would be to ignore the un-Christ-like actions and lifestyles of our Brothers and Sisters, and allow them to continue (to the ultimate destruction of the individual and the entire Ecclesia...)

## SLIDE

- Ezekiel 3:17-18

- 17) “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, **you shall give them warning from me.**
- 18) If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to **warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life**, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

## SLIDE

- The **CLEARLY RIGHT** thing to do is also very clear:

## SLIDE

### • 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:6-7

- 6) Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness** and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.
- 7) For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you

- Where we fail is in the cold outworking of “Organized Religion”...
- We fail because we fall short of the Ideal...

## SLIDE

- The concept here is that the fellowship we have been enjoying with our Brother or Sister is so precious and valuable, that life without this fellowship should be almost unbearable for the offender...
- They really would feel a loss if we were to withdraw from them, and that is the motivation for them to want to change from their wrong ways...
- The reality is that they often have already slipped between the cracks, and we are not enjoying the relationship with them that we should be...

## SLIDE

- We have been ignoring them for so long that they don't have any desire to stay

## SLIDE

- They find that life with us is often unbearable, and they are quite happy to leave us...
- Their departure often isn't sad, and doesn't really tear at the hearts of anyone
- At best we would only have seen them for an hour and a half on Sunday Morning anyway, and they've hardly been missed
- And in reality, we end up sending them a letter telling them that they are no longer able to Break Bread with us on Sunday Mornings until they resolve their problems...
- Sure... This isn't Wrong...
- ***I'm not trying to say that it is...***
- But, it clearly falls woefully short of the Ideal...
- Agreed! This doesn't happen all the time
- There are times when our actions do achieve the needed results

- And there are situations where the outcome wouldn't change regardless of our Ecclesia's actions
- But, the point is that we can do so much better!
- One of the verses in Christ's first sermon that stands out in regards to Ecclesial Life is also in Matthew 5

### SLIDE

- Matthew 5:23-24

- 23) So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,
- 24) leave your gift there before the altar and go. **First be reconciled to your brother**, and then come and offer your gift.

- This verse is particularly strong in that it points out the value and importance of Fellowship by assigning such immediacy to it

### SLIDE

- I'd like to spend the rest of the class talking about Fellowship...

### SLIDE

- Because, sometimes Fellowship simply falls apart...

### SLIDE

- ***Whenever this happens, remember that relationships are worth restoring***

- When you boil it all down, it really is quite simple...

### SLIDE

- John 13:35

- 35) By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love for one another**.

- We can talk and talk about what Fellowship means, but in the end, it really is simply whether or not you show love to old uncle Harold that sits in the back
- Sure, we are part of a "Worldwide Fellowship", and sure, it means a lot to each one of us, but in reality, I would say that 90% of the Brethren in the world come from Ecclesias with less than 100 members
- Probably, more than 50% come from Ecclesias with less than 50 Members
- Fellowship isn't some big, confusing, deep topic
- Fellowship is sharing your life with those three dozen other weak, sinful, imperfect people that straggle into meeting 10 minutes late every Sunday



- Fellowship is all about having **RELATIONSHIPS** with the people in your Ecclesia
- I love this definition of Fellowship, and I'm also tormented by it:

### SLIDE

- Fellowship is “*coming alongside someone*”
- That's why it is so hard...
- It's not always about leading someone, or even coming behind them to pick up the pieces
- Fellowship is about coming alongside them
- Sharing in their sadness, their failures, their disappointments and their shortcomings
- Being patient while they work through their issues
- Growing with them as they grow
- And rejoicing with them when they succeed

### SLIDE

- If we are to be known for our love for one other, then broken fellowship is a disgraceful testimony about us

### SLIDE

- And, restoring Fellowship should be one of our primary goals...

### SLIDE

- Here are 7 Biblical Steps to Restoring Fellowship

### SLIDE

#### 1 - Talk to God **BEFORE** talking to the other person

- Pray about the conflict instead of gossiping about it...
- You will often find that God resolves the problem immediately...
- Sometimes God changes the other person
- Most times God just changes your heart
- Take a close look at the Psalms...
- David perfected the art of ***Venting Vertically***

- Tell God your frustrations
- Cry out to Him!
- Most times your “conflict” can be resolved by God
- If you have to approach the person
- Ask God to give you guidance and courage

## SLIDE

### 2 - Always take the INITIATIVE

- It doesn't matter if you were offended or the one doing the offending
- Let me repeat that...
- It doesn't matter if you were offended or the one doing the offending
- God expects you to make the first move
- You are absolutely correct...
- THEY **ARE** the ones at fault
- THEY **should** come to you to apologize
- But, God expects YOU to make the first move
- Don't procrastinate, make excuses, or promise yourself that you'll get around to it when the time is right...
- ***Schedule a face-to-face meeting as soon as possible***
- No phone calls, no email, no letters, no instant-messaging...
- Do it in person, and do it as soon as possible
- Delay only deepens resentment and makes matters worse
- Time heals nothing, it only causes hurts to fester and get worse
- Choose a time when neither of you are rushed or will be interrupted, but choose one

## SLIDE

### 3 - SYMPATHIZE with their feelings

- Use your ears more than your mouth

## SLIDE

- Philippians 2:4

4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the **interests of others**.

- ***Focus first on feelings, and not facts***

- You are not trying to prove that you were right...
- You are trying to rebuild a relationship
- ***Begin with sympathy, not solutions***
- Men: Don't act like Men!
- Don't try to solve this in one 90 minute meeting
- Don't try to talk people out of how they feel at first
- Just listen without being defensive
- Nod to show that you Understand, not that you necessarily Agree
- Feelings are not always true and hardly ever logical
- If you try to address them too soon, you will cause immediate resentment
- No one is pleased with how they act when they are upset...
- I love what David says in Psalm 73

### SLIDE

- Psalm 73:21-22

21) When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,

22) I was **brutish** and **ignorant**; I was like a **beast** toward you.

- When you're acting like a Beast, you don't really respond well to Logic...
- Just concentrate on letting them know that you care
- The old saying is true...
- ***People don't care what you know, until they know that you care***

### SLIDE

#### 4 - CONFESS your part of the conflict

- ***If you really want to restore the relationship, then you should begin by admitting your OWN mistakes and sins***
- It's really easy to tell when you have done something wrong in a conflict...

- It's usually preceded by those times when you think,
- ***"I don't know what I possibly could have done that would have caused them to act like this!"***
- ***If you claim that you're free from sin, you're only fooling yourself...***
- Look closely... You'll find something
- Confession is a powerful tool for reconciliation
- When you begin by humbly admitting your mistakes, it defuses the other person's anger
- Accept responsibility for your mistakes and ask for forgiveness

### SLIDE

#### **5 - Attack the problem, NOT the person**

- ***"Fix the problem, not the blame"***
- In a conflict, **HOW** you say it, is as important as **WHAT** you say
- A soft answer is always better than a sarcastic one
- Never say anything that personally attacks the other person
- ***Say, "You have committed a sin..."***,
- ***DON'T SAY,***
- ***"You are a sinner!"***
- Don't **NAG!** Nagging **NEVER** works!
- You are never Persuasive when you are Abrasive

### SLIDE

#### **6 - COOPERATE as much as possible**

- Peace always has a price
- For the sake of fellowship do **WHATEVER** you can to compromise, adjust to others, and show preference to what they want
- Notice I said "Cooperate" not "Compromise"...
- No one is asking you to deny the fundamentals of your faith
- But, you are being asked to deny yourself that great feeling of proving yourself right

## SLIDE

### 7 - Emphasize **RECONCILIATION** not resolution

- It's unrealistic to expect everyone to agree about everything
- **Reconciliation focuses on the relationship**
- **Resolution focuses on the problem**
- Focus on reconciliation, and the problem often becomes irrelevant
- **You don't have to resolve the issue... Just the relationship!**

## SLIDE

- God is love, and therefore He treasures relationships

## SLIDE

- It is in loving others that you are most like God
- Look at what Paul tells the Galatians:

## SLIDE

- Galatians 5:14

14) For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

- Do you believe that?
- Or, is that just being poetic?
- **EVERYTHING** we know about God's Word is summed up in this single sentence!
- It really **IS** that simple!
- It's not Rocket Science
- You don't have to be an amazing Bible Student to figure this out!
- Learning to love unselfishly is not an easy task
- This runs counter to your self-centered nature
- Of course, God wants you to love everyone
- But, He is particularly concerned about you learning to love others in His family

## SLIDE

- God wants you to be in regular, close fellowship with other believers so that you can develop your

skills of loving

- God wants you to have fellowship with people just like you... Imperfect, irritating, frustrating people
- How do you express your love to these kinds of people?

**SLIDE**

• ***The best expression of Love is Time***

- The importance of things can be measured by how much time you are willing to invest in them
- Time is so precious, because we all only have a set amount of it
- You can make more money, but you can't make more time
- When you give someone your time, you are giving something that you'll never get back
- If you say that relationships are important to you...
- You have to prove it by investing your time in them

**SLIDE**

• ***You can give without loving***

**SLIDE**

• ***But you can't love without giving***

**SLIDE**

• ***Love means giving up...***

**SLIDE**

- Your preferences

**SLIDE**

- Your comfort

**SLIDE**

- Your money

**SLIDE**

- Your energy

**SLIDE**

- ***Your time***

- You are NOT simply asked to **Believe...**
- You are called to **Belong**
- While your relationship with God is personal, it is not intended to be private
- God intended us to be part of a larger body from the very start
- Sure, you have a personal relationship with God, and it is vital that you develop that relationship, but that doesn't exclude you from **HAVING** to learn how to live together with other Brothers and Sisters

### SLIDE

- Romans 12:4-5
  - 4) For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,
  - 5) so we, though many, are **one body** in Christ, and **individually members one of another**.
- Following Christ means **BELONGING**, not just **BELIEVING**
- Body parts on their own are useless...
- If an organ is severed from its body, it will shrivel up and die
- It cannot exist on its own, and neither can you
- Spiritually disconnected from the lifeblood of your body, your spiritual life will wither and eventually cease to exist
- That is why the first symptom of spiritual decline is usually inconsistent attendance at Memorial Service and other gatherings of the body

### SLIDE

- When you become careless of fellowship, other things begin to slide also

### SLIDE

- Membership in the Family of God is neither inconsequential nor something to be casually ignored
- You must be there in order to participate in it
- And when you are there, you have to actually be there

### SLIDE

- Real Fellowship is experiencing life together...

- Honest sharing
- Practical serving
- Sacrificial giving
- Sympathetic comforting
- Christ's calling to us is to live together
- Not just to live peaceably together, but to actually get along
- To experience Real Fellowship
- The kind of Fellowship that overlooks upsets and accepts differences
- Look at how Christ talks about it Matthew 7:

### SLIDE

#### • Matthew 7:1-5

- 1) "Judge not, that you be not judged.
- 2) For **with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged**, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.
- 3) Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?
- 4) Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye?
- 5) You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

- It's not enough to simply be fair and unbiased with your Brothers and Sisters
- Christ wants you to go **ONE STEP FURTHER**, and not be condemning at all
- Christ wants you to commit yourself to your Brothers and Sisters
- ***Because Fellowship Requires Commitment***

### SLIDE

#### • James 3:17-18

- 17) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.
- 18) And **a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**

- If you are tired of fake fellowship
- If you want to cultivate real fellowship



## SLIDE

- You will need to commit yourself to **5** things:

## SLIDE

### **1 - Cultivating Fellowship takes HONESTY**

- You have to care enough to lovingly speak the truth, instead of glossing over a problem or ignoring an issue
- Many fellowships remain superficial because they are afraid of conflict
- Issues never get resolved and everyone lives with underlying frustration
- Everyone knows about the problem (the 800 pound gorilla in the room), but no one dares talk openly about it

## SLIDE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:3

3) For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, **I have already pronounced judgment on the one** who did such a thing.

- Paul wasn't afraid to talk about the tough issues
- ***In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery***
- But, frankness is not rudeness
- Don't be rude... Be loving, but honest

## SLIDE

### **2 - Cultivating fellowship takes HUMILITY**

- Self-importance, stubborn pride and smugness destroys fellowship
- ***Pride builds walls between people... Humility builds bridges***

## SLIDE

- Romans 12:16

16) Live in harmony with one another. **Do not be haughty**, but associate with the lowly. **Never be wise in your own sight.**

- ***Humility is not thinking less of yourself, humility is thinking of yourself less***
- Humility is thinking more of others

- Humble people are so focused on serving others, that they don't think of themselves

### SLIDE

#### **3 - Cultivating fellowship takes COURTESY**

- Courtesy is respecting other people's differences, being considerate of their feelings, and being patient when they irritate you
- ***Every group has at least one "difficult" person***
- ***They are an opportunity for growth and a test of fellowship***
- You also have quirks and annoying traits
- ***Real fellowship has nothing to do with compatibility***
- ***The basis for your fellowship is your relationship to God***
- ***You are part of a family***
- ***In a family you are accepted simply because you are a member of the family***
- One key to courtesy is to understand where people are coming from
- Get to know their history
- Don't concentrate on how far they still have to go
- Look at how far they have come in spite of their problems

### SLIDE

#### **4 - Cultivating fellowship takes CONFIDENTIALITY**

- Only in a safe environment will people open up and share their deepest hurts, needs, and mistakes
- Confidentiality does not mean keeping silent while your Brother or Sister sins
- It means what is shared with your group needs to stay in the group
- The group needs to deal with it and not gossip about it
- ***God hates gossip***
- ***Gossip causes hurt and divisions***
- ***Gossip destroys fellowship***
- You are commanded to confront those who cause division and gossip and not to allow it to continue

## SLIDE

### 5 - Cultivating fellowship takes **FREQUENCY**

- You **MUST** have frequent, regular contact with your Ecclesia in order to build Fellowship
- Relationships take Time
- The best expression of Love is Time
- You must commit yourself to giving fellowship with your Ecclesia prominence over the other things in your schedule
- You may not want to at first, but you do so because it is the right thing to do
- ***Fellowship is built not on convenience, but on conviction***
- ***You don't get together when you feel like it, but because you need it***
- Let's face some facts, you often won't feel like it
- One of the primary lessons that God is trying to teach us by calling us to be members of an Ecclesia is how love those people that are not easy to love
- Don't think it's just your Ecclesia!
- Don't go looking around to try to find a better Ecclesia
- That is part of the point!
- It's every Ecclesia
- Every body of human beings has the same flaw
- It consists of Human Beings!
- The point of Fellowship, and the point of being a member of an Ecclesia is to show God's love to people who may not even "deserve" it
- To show God's love to people who make it hard for you to love them
- Look at the example of Jesus...
- He didn't just put up with a Brother who thinks he knows it all
- He didn't just put up with a Sister who always has to "one-up" your story with something even worse that has happened in your life
- He didn't just put up with a Brother who always interrupts you
- He didn't just put up with a Brother who always insists on getting his own way

- He didn't just put up with a Sister who makes feel small or insignificant
- Jesus put up with people who actually **HATED** him, and wanted him **DEAD!**
- And look at the attitude of Jesus towards them:

### SLIDE

- Luke 23:33-34

- 33) And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.
- 34) And Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**" And they cast lots to divide his garments.

- When those same lost sheep come wandering in the front door every Sunday, it is **that** kind of example that we look to
- **THAT** is the attitude that we want in our Ecclesias!

### SLIDE

- **THAT** is the kind of Ecclesial Life that we are called to
- Anyone can be nice to nice people
- Anyone can dress up nice on Sunday morning, shake everyone's hand, smile, and listen to some comfortable, non-challenging words...
- Millions do!
- Every single Sunday
- Then, on the way home they talk evil about the same people that they were just praying with
- Anyone can be pleasant for a few hours once a week
- And, clearly, that wouldn't be a sin if that is all that it means to you...
- But, Christ expects so much more from us

### SLIDE

- Christ isn't looking for **NICE**
- Christ is looking for **LOVING**

### SLIDE

- Christ is looking for us to go **ONE STEP FURTHER** in our Ecclesia