

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day

"The Church at Laodicea" (3)



Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

Paul is with us to present the **Lesson**. **Charles Barry** will lead our **Bible Class** and **Kerry Johnson** will lead us in **Song**... may

God bless their efforts!

*Our Lord's Day
Plan...*

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

James 3:13

We are praying for you!

Charles Barry - for his physical therapy helping rid him of pain.

Norma Decker - for good health and joy in the Lord.

Rose marie Johnson - for improved health and good sleep.

George Brown - for the shealing of interenal bleeding and better health.

Patty Kirby - for comfort and healing from COVID-19.

Lexi Reed - for her return to serving the Lord and His church.

The Alisal Congregation - for more people added to our group of Christians.

We pray for all people to seek God and obey his commandments.

Why Can't I Convert My Neighbor?

Morris D. Norman

Quite often, we wonder why we can't be more effective in interesting our friends and neighbors in the Gospel of Christ. We hear sermons impressing us with our duty, and we go forth and make what we think is an honest effort to convert the lost. Yet, why are we no more successful than we are?

The fault may be with the one we are trying to reach. Man is a product of his environment, and by his environment he will determine his religious attitudes. This background may have caused him to become indifferent toward religion in general because of the hypocrisy he has seen in those who claim to be religious. Or, he may be so deeply set in error that he has become prejudiced against truth. We must learn ways to break down these barriers so we can teach him the truth.

However, the fault may also be in us. We are often our own worst enemy in the most important work on earth. Let's examine some of these faults and, if guilty, cast the beam out of our own eye before we begin with the mote that is in our neighbor's eye.

It may be that I can't convert my neighbor because I am not truly converted to Christ myself. When my neighbor sees that less important things take precedent over my loyalty to Christ, how can I expect to have any influence on him? He sees that I give only lip service, and he concludes that it's just not that important after all.

It may be that I can't convert my neighbor because I find no real joy in serving Christ. If my neighbor hears me continually complaining about any little sacrifice I am called on to make for Jesus' cause, he will be reluctant to think that there would be any joy to him in being converted.

It may be that I can't convert my neighbor because I am not sold on the product – the Gospel. If my neighbor sees that I do not think enough of the Gospel to apply it to every facet of my life, it will be futile to try to convince him that the Gospel will solve the problems of his life.

It may be that I can't convert my neighbor because I am not as good of a

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moral man in Christ as my neighbor is out of Christ. As a Christian, I ought to be the finest kind of mate, parent, citizen, worker or neighbor. If applied Christianity has not made me better than my neighbor, I won't likely be able to have a great deal of influence on him.

It may be that I can't convert my neighbor because I don't really believe in hell. If I did really believe that there was an eternal hell where my neighbor will go because he is out of Christ, and I loved his soul as I claim I do, I would busy myself in finding a way to save him. I would not want him to spend eternity in hell.

It may be that I can't convert my neighbor because I don't really care if he's converted or not. If I really cared about him and his soul, I would prepare myself to teach him and then be on the lookout for opportunities to teach him the good news of Christ.

I would not be discouraged by his apparent indifference. I would look for ways to break down his prejudice. I would live the very best life possible before him and show him the joys of being a follower of Christ, that Christ and His Word will solve every problem that this world offers and that I have the peace that passeth all understanding.

Perhaps, then, it is not that I can't convert my neighbor but rather that I haven't converted myself.

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Q: What is the best way to mend a jack-o-lantern?

A: By using a pumpkin patch!

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How much better to get wisdom than gold, to choose understanding rather than silver! — Proverbs 16:16

Thought

What are the greatest riches in life? Well surely they are not silver and gold. Of infinitely greater value is wisdom, which helps us understand what is valuable, what is true, what is worthy of our heart, and what is not.

September 19, 2021



Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

Wednesday (via Zoom) Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm

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