

Old Couches – Acts 15

There are a few things I believe to the core of my being:

- There really is a place called heaven and a place called hell and every person who has ever lived will spend eternity in one of those two places.
- The church is the hope of the world. – Ephesians 3

Here's the problem:

- Many unchurched people believe that church is for church people!
- When Jesus was alive, those who were least like Jesus liked Jesus!
- These same people don't like being around us!
I think it's time that we stop blaming that on them.

It seems to me that we ought to be irresistible like Jesus was irresistible.

2 problems in Acts 15 that are still problems today:

1. People who had recently trusted Christ were being told they had to be circumcised.
2. All kinds of people who were hearing about Jesus were told they also had to have surgery in order to be saved

The 1st Century is no different than the 21st Century – Change Is Hard!

There's a natural tendency for a church when it starts to focus on those outside the church, but the longer it's in existence the easier it is to focus on those inside!

What goes into making churches like this?

1. Don't dumb down the content, just check your approach!
Approach trumps content every time! The way you say what you say often has the biggest impact.
2. Provide time for your people to build friendships with those who are far from God.
3. Create an environment that those far from God will actually come to by relentlessly removing old couches!

Potential Old Couches in Our Culture:

- Music
- Dress
- Translations
- Insider language

Every church must choose either deep, painful change or slow, painful death. One glorifies God and one pleases us.