

four|pursuit

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

John 13

It is easy to believe the lie that...

By intentionally pursuing new relationships, it will come across as 'pushy'. To love others is by invitation only. Pursuing others will be a natural rhythm of life.

Instead, we can believe that:

1) Love crosses all barriers and bridges all gaps.

A genuine love of your neighbors will lead to action, because true love does not sit dormant. As you begin to pursue them as real people and not projects, it will be the love of Christ working through you that stirs within them a hunger for more. Everyone on the face of the planet, including your neighbors, are looking for two things: love and truth (in that order).

2) Our neighbors have an intricate story.

Each of us have hurt, confusion, struggle, and trial as a part of our story. It is easy to forget that as we build new relationships. We can quickly negate that as we sense walls that some of our neighbors have up, or facial expressions that seem to communicate 'stop talking to me'. The reality is, we have no idea what has made them into who they are...and that frees us to love them all the more.

3) Reciprocation is not a requirement.

Obviously, there is tremendous life giving properties in a relationship that is reciprocal. We must not, however, be lulled to sleep in only pursuing relationships that 'provide us something'. Initially, some of our neighbors will be reluctant and will not ask us one meaningful question, but it must not impact our continual pursuit of them.

Question to consider:

Is there a neighbor that you already have built up frustration towards? What can be done to pursue reconciliation so the relationship can press forward?

Actions to take:

- > Intentional pursuit takes forethought and strategy.
- > How can I put myself in a situation to interact with more of my neighbors?
- > What are some creative ways I can serve my neighbors?
- > How can I create opportunities for my '7' to all be together?
- > How can I involve my neighbors in serving one another?

