

1 Corinthians 3:4 (NLT2)

When one of you says, “I am a follower of Paul,” and another says, “I follow Apollos,” aren’t you acting just like people of the world?

Name droppers, you know, those who brag about who they know or who they have met. We all know these that do, but we seem to forget that we are all one of them as well. “Well, I’m not” you may be thinking. Yet how many times do we (I include myself here) drop the name of our pastor or the church where we go to others? How many times do we invite others to come to the church we attend and brag about our pastor, yet the name of Jesus is not really a part of the conversation?

But here is something to think about. When you invite someone to church, before you did, did you invite them to Jesus first, or are you expecting the church or your pastor to save them? Some will say, “Well I invite them to church so they can be saved.” Yet we seem to forget that the same Holy Spirit that is in your pastor, is the same Holy Spirit that is in you.

† **Ephesians 2:18 (NLT2)** *Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.*

And that same Holy Spirit can, and WILL use YOU to save your family member, friend, coworker, your friend at school, or stranger, just as He would through your pastor, because it’s not us that save others, but rather, “*because of what Christ has done for us.*”

Now I am not saying that inviting the lost to church is wrong, because it’s not. Yet we must also remember that nowhere in the bible does it say to go out into the world and invite the lost to church to be saved, because the church is a place where the saints (us believers) are to be equipped, and that equipping is for us as believers to go out and share Jesus with the lost so that they can be saved. Then, after you share Jesus with that person and they give their life to Jesus, then invite them to church so that they can grow in the Lord and be equipped as a believer as well.

I know we also make excuses that we can not save others or don’t know how to share Jesus with others, which I will agree in most cases is true, and me saying that may even shock you. But I say it because it’s true that we can not save people, only the Holy Spirit speaking to that person’s heart, and them giving their life to Jesus can save them. Simply, we are the messengers sent and prompted by the Holy Spirit to share Jesus, not invite them to church to be saved, and it’s the Holy Spirit that is piercing the heart of that person that will save them, not them going to church. Also being a name dropper and telling them about your pastor or church is not what saves them either.

Your pastor does not have any magic words or way of persuading others to come to Jesus, because if he did, then salvation has now come through your pastor (man), and not through God, which would make it an emotional thing and not a heart changing thing that only the Holy Spirit can do, not man. So if that's the case and you really think about the fact that you have the same Holy Spirit in you that is in your pastor does, and the Holy Spirit is doing the work, it doesn't matter if its you, or your pastor, or someone else that is telling that person about Jesus. Also, when we have others do what we can do just as well, we are also giving them that blessing or reward that we would have received in heaven.

† **Colossians 3:23-24** *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

Think of the coffee or tea that you drink every morning. It's not the cup that satisfies you, but rather the coffee or tea in the cup that satisfies you. Now you may have a favorite cup you like to drink out of, but to be honest, if you did not have that cup and used a different cup, the coffee or tea would taste exactly the same, and the affects of that coffee or tea is not dependent on the cup, but rather the contents of that cup.

So if I may, think of the Holy Spirit as the coffee, and you and your pastor are two different cups that the coffee (the Holy Spirit) is poured in to. No matter which one the person drinks from, or in our case, no matter which person delivers the same message of salvation to that person, either one will have the same exact affect. Because when we say, I can't save anyone; therefore, I can't share Jesus with anyone, you have turned yourself into the coffee and made the Holy Spirit the cup.

† **1 Corinthians 3:6-9 (NLT2)** *I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.*