



DONES & NONES

GOD'S HEART FOR THE UNCHURCHED

The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon notes from June 21st, 2020.

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- This morning I want to talk to you about the **DONES & the NONES**

Now this has nothing to do with “Nuns” as in Priests and Nuns... But speaking about priests, before I get into explaining what I mean by **DONES & NONES**, let me tell you a story...

Story about Orthodox Priest

- “Do you think I’m in?” (Meaning, am I going to heaven/saved)
- We believe that only those in the Church go to heaven and the Orthodox Church is the only real Church... so “no!”
- I have good news and I have good news...
 - 1) “I know I am saved because I’ve been born of the Spirit and...

“The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Romans 8:16

- 2) “I am quite sure you are in because you also have put your faith in Jesus Christ, and the same Jesus that lives in me lives in you”.
- Now I’m quite sure that not all Orthodox Priests think of me as on the broad road to hell.
 - I myself was raised in a strict Pentecostal group that also thought that anyone outside of our particular Church group was heading down the elevator of eternity to an eternity in hell.
Our group was the only one saved!

Story: Ultra conservative Catholic Priest at Fredericton Airport

- I asked him the same question: “Do you think I’m in?” (Meaning, am I going to heaven/saved)
- He hummed and hawed and finally told me the same thing...
Only those in the “Church” to go to heaven and (this time) it was the Roman Catholic Church who is the only real Church... so “no!”
Then he told me (seriously) that God in His mercy might let me manage the vending machine just outside the Pearly Gates. I thanked him for the gracious consideration but told him the same thing... “Don’t worry. I am quite confident I’m in because I have been born again by the Spirit of God through faith in Jesus Christ”

The Church of Jesus is not an institution. It’s not a denomination. It’s not a particular religious organisation. It’s not a building or a cathedral. It doesn’t have a charity number. It’s not registered with any earthly government. It doesn’t have an area code or a mailing address.

You can’t find it on GOOGLE maps!

WIKIPEDIA can’t define it!

The Church of Jesus crosses all barriers, cultures, traditions, styles, languages, locations and countries.

- The Gospel of John, chapter 3 tells of this prominent religious leader called Nicodemus who comes to see Jesus one night and starts the conversation by saying:

“Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” John 3:2

We know because we see what you do.

We know you are from God because you do good things!

Today one could say, "I know you are from God because you do good things; go to church; give money to the church..."

But Jesus turns the conversation to being born again of the Spirit!

Jesus answers: "I tell you the truth, no one can know (Same word as Nicodemus uses - see or understand) the kingdom of God unless they are born again (born from above, born of the Spirit)." John 3:3

You can't know who is of God or not simply by observing what they do or don't do on this visible level or with human understanding. It is on a different level. The level of the Spirit.

Then Jesus said...

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:8 (NIV)

Illustration: Outside fire and chairs

(1) THE CHURCH ISN'T A VISIBLE INSTITUTION

You can't say, "here is the Church" "there is the Church" or "she is in the Church" "He's not in the Church"

The Church is not a visible organization or a physical place.

The Smythe Street Church building isn't the CHURCH.

Part of the Church gathers here at times...

"You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven." Hebrews 12:22-23a (NIV)

Before Jesus came, the Temple was on Mount Zion in the city of Jerusalem. It was in a physical location where people went to be with God. But now we are part of a "spiritual Jerusalem" from every tribe, language and nation. You cannot measure it with human measurements!

Back to those words of Jesus...

"The wind blows wherever it pleases."

(2) THE SPIRIT IS BLOWING ALL AROUND US

He's moving on your friends, your family, the people you work with.

I meet people who are open to Jesus and to the things of God even though they don't attend church. **THE WIND IS BLOWING ON THEM!**

- This being Father's Day I have been thinking of my father (Bill Drost) and the influence he had on my life and my faith...
 - Dad was a missionary... Columbia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Brazil, Peru, Spain (This picture would have been around 1959 – Not sure why I had my mouth open).
 - But actually, **Dad was a missionary all the time.** In every place and in every occasion (airports, stores, picking up hitchhikers).
 - Story about the hitchhiker Malaga – France... (Hippie)

– **Dad taught me three important things about the Spirit:**

1) The Holy Spirit is not confined to a Sunday service, to our religious program, or to our church group.

The Church is bigger than what we see!

THE CHURCH ISN'T A VISIBLE INSTITUTION

2) The Spirit is moving all around us...

THE SPIRIT IS BLOWING ALL AROUND US

He blows wherever and whenever He wants!

On those around you, your neighbours, your family.

The culture you are in.

(3) AND THE SPIRIT WANTS TO USE YOU! Isn't that COOL!

He wants to love through you! He wants to care for others through you! He wants to share God's story through you! He wants to lead you!

"Those who are children of God are led by the Spirit of God." Romans 8:14

One of my dad's favourite songs was:

Lord use me here am I use me

I want to be greatly used of thee

Across the street or across the sea

Lord here am I use me

We live in a world very different to my dad's!

Let me tell you about two of the largest people groups in Canada:

The DONES & the NONES

1) **NONES**

People who claim to have no religion: The IRRELIGIOUS

This term derives from surveys of religious affiliation, in which "None" is typically the last choice.

They are totally disconnected with any religion. They don't pray. They have no interest in spiritual things. God, Jesus, prayer, or church don't form a part of their lives.

2) **DONES**

People who have left the organized "church" or organized religion. The DECHURCHED

They're done with "going to church". They're tired and fed up with church. They're frustrated with the structure, the inward focus, the politics and the institutional church.

NONES make up close to 30% of Canadians (three in 10)

DONES make up close to 50% of Canadians (five in 10)

That means that less than 80% of Canadians have no interest in going to church on Sunday! They might come to a wedding or a funeral, but that's it. That means that if you want to share Christ with them or have a meaningful relationship (or conversation) with them, it most likely will not be inside a Church building.

NONES are the atheists, agnostics & secular humanists.

- They are often very nice people. Some are nicer than some Christians.
- Many of them do good things and are good citizens.

DONES believe in God and Jesus. They pray but don't go to church.

- Many of them know their Bible or just enough to criticize what you do, how you live and your church.
- Many of them were part of a local church and served in it for years. They sang in the Choir, ushered, helped with Sunday School, etc.

Let me say this,

I believe Jesus wants us to reach out and love the DONES and the NONES in our city.

GOD CARES ABOUT THEM!

As a Pastor, I feel the Spirit calling me to the DONES and the NONES in our community!

- Pastoring the city, not just Smythe Street Church.
 - I feel most excited when I am in the midst of the DONES & NONES in our community. The IRRELIGIOUS, the DECHURCHED.
 - I am aware I get paid to take care of the “INS” and I do that with joy. But I'm also called to the DONES and the NONES.
 - I have had wonderful opportunities to pray with them, lead them to Jesus, do their weddings and their funerals, hear their stories and to share Christ's love with them.
- Let me close sharing with you the best way to minister to the DONES and the NONES! I learned it from my dad.

Story of Dad in prison in Ecuador

- Going before a judge “What will I say”
- New Testament:

“When they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” Luke 12:11–12 (NKJV)

My dad told me many stories of when he was imprisoned for preaching the gospel and how he would pray this very prayer... “Holy Spirit, give me the right words to say.”

“The Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

All through my ministry (over 40 years now) and these last three years as a Chaplain, I have faced many situations that I had no idea what to do or what to say...

- Hospitals where people were dying surrounded by DONES & NONES
- Called to go into homes to notify of loved ones who had died. Husbands, wives, dads, moms... What do you tell a dad whose son has been found murdered?

And I've prayed that same prayer, “Holy Spirit, give me the right words to say.”

And He's never let me down! It's an adventure!

The Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

All He asks of us is that we be available and willing!

Lord use me here am I use me

I want to be greatly used of thee

Across the street or across the sea

Lord here am I use me

Closing prayer...