

“How I Lead Me... Becoming Like Christ”

09.25.11

Sermon Series: Influence: Light, Lead, Follow!

One of the marks of classic codependency involves placing a lower priority on one's own needs, while being obsessively preoccupied with the needs of others. Codependency is usually associated with the friends and family of someone dealing with addiction, but it can certainly cross over into relationships that don't include addictions.

This issue of taking care of oneself vs. helping others can be confusing for a Christian because the Bible does call believers to consider others needs above their own. However, this call to humility is always in the context of a healthy and strong view of oneself. As we continue into the subject of “Influence,” this Sunday we will look at ourselves and how we lead...us.

- Pastor Bill Francis

Sermon Scripture: [Luke 2:52](#)

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

“A Recipe for Success”

09.18.11

Sermon Series: Influence: Light, Lead, Follow!

Jesus told people that the way to serve Him was to find people in need and serve them. One of the groups that Jesus singled out as being in need is those who are in prison. Symbolically he stated to those who were doing right, “I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

This Sunday at Morello we welcome guest speaker, Chaplain Lance Marshall, who serves in the Contra Costa jails! Lance will bring our message and report on the chaplain ministry. We celebrate the work that the Bay Area Chaplains and their volunteers do for our county, knowing that they are following the direct call of Christ himself! The title of the message is, “A Recipe for Success.”

- Pastor Bill Francis

Sermon Scripture: [2 Chronicles 20:21](#)

²¹ After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his^[a] holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

“Give thanks to the LORD,
for his love endures forever.”

“Powered by God to Make a Difference”

09.11.11

Sermon Series: Influence: Light, Lead, Follow!

Morello Hills Christian Church Sermon Descriptions – 2011

Do you know what the individual world record for setting up and knocking down dominoes in one day is? (Stop acting like you don't care!) Apparently a woman in China holds the record at 303,000 dominoes! Can you imagine? Certainly, you have at some point indulged in the fun activity of setting up and knocking down dominoes. It's very hard to resist if you have a set in front of you. There is something exciting about watching this chain reaction!

This Sunday we will begin a new sermon series at Morello called, "Influence – Light, Lead, Follow!" We have numerous opportunities each day to be part of a chain reaction that brings hope to people around us; this series will help train and motivate us to make the most of these opportunities. This Sunday's message kicks things off and is titled, "Powered by God."

Also, we will take some time to remember 9/11 and prayerfully reflect on the past 10 years.

- Pastor Bill Francis

Sermon Scripture: [Matthew 5:14a & 16](#)

^{14a} " You are the light of the world... ¹⁶ ... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

"Rising from the Dead! Therefore, Stand Firm..."

09.04.11

Sermon Series: Ordinary People Following Jesus (A Study of I Corinthians)

It has become an annual event for us at Morello Hills to tell you to NOT GO TO CHURCH this Sunday! Instead, GO TO THE PARK! Why? Because this Sunday is our annual "Church in the Park" and instead of meeting inside our building like we usually do, we will be meeting at the large group picnic area at the Waterfront Park (near the bocce courts)! Starbucks coffee will be available at 9:30am, the service begins at 10:00am and we will have a barbecue lunch afterward. Everyone is welcome to join us, so come down (you might bring a folding chair), we will have a spot in the shade waiting for you (and a hamburger or hotdog ready for you after the service)!

Live music, a communion time and an interactive message will highlight the worship service. We are wrapping up a series titled, "Ordinary People Following Jesus" and beginning a new series titled, "Influence – How I'm Wired to Make a Difference in the World."

- Pastor Bill Francis

Sermon Scripture: [1 Corinthians 15:51-52](#)

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

"Being a Church! What's Important in Our Gathering?"

08.28.11

Morello Hills Christian Church Sermon Descriptions – 2011

Sermon Series: Ordinary People Following Jesus (A Study of I Corinthians)

Give me a movie with intense drama and deep/meaningful dialogue and I'm all in! For instance, when I watch something like the "You can't handle the truth!" scene in "A Few Good Men"; I'm simply on the edge of my seat. My mind starts racing as I consider things like: who's right, what would I be like in the situation, what's going to happen next, along with many other thoughts and reactions. Now, this particular scene brings to question "truth" and what is required to actually hear it.

What is God's means of bringing the truth you and I need to hear (but may not want to hear) to us in our day to day lives? Our message this Sunday continues our series, Ordinary People Following Jesus, from the Bible book of 1 Corinthians. We are in chapter 14 where we will see how God brings truth to his people through the spiritual gift of "prophecy".

The spiritual gift of "prophecy" can be misunderstood. For many it brings to mind the failed attempt a few months back to predict the end of the world and other predictions of future events. But the heart of prophecy is speaking on behalf of God, not the prediction of future events. But how could one possibly speak on behalf of God? ... (I'll continue on Sunday :)

- Pastor Bill Francis

Sermon Scripture: [1 Corinthians 14:24-25](#)

²⁴ But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, ²⁵ as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

"Loving Louder – How to Really Be Heard!"

08.21.11

Sermon Series: Ordinary People Following Jesus (A Study of I Corinthians)

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only are sounding gong or a clanging cymbal." It is common to hear these words from the Bible book of First Corinthians quoted at a wedding. These words are both challenging and beautiful, expressing the importance of true love requiring more than mere words. This Sunday we are excited to hear from two women who have put their love into action by following a calling into the mission field. Carly Higgins serves at Chico State University with Campus Crusade for Christ, a ministry to provide college students a place of Christian support. Janet Oruh serves in Indonesia with Wycliff Bible Translators, working to put the Bible into a native language it has not been in before. Both women grew up in the Diablo Valley.

They will each share a short presentation at the 10:30 Worship Service and will do a longer presentation with questions and answers during our 9:15am class time.

- Pastor Bill Francis

Sermon Scripture: [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#)

Morello Hills Christian Church Sermon Descriptions – 2011

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

“The Lord’s Supper – United Around the Table!”

08.14.11

Sermon Series: Ordinary People Following Jesus (A Study of I Corinthians)

Meal time ... an iconic portrait of the American family.

In 2006 Time magazine featured an article about the benefits of family meal time even when the meal time may not be ideal. After pointing out some typical flaws the article stated, “... there is something about a shared meal--not some holiday blowout, not once in a while but regularly, reliably--that anchors a family even on nights when the food is fast and the talk cheap and everyone has someplace else they'd rather be.” These are helpful thoughts to consider for our own families and also to consider for a church family.

Each Sunday at Morello we take communion, the Lord’s Supper, a symbolic (and simple) meal (for us usually involving a cracker and grape juice). Christ himself told his followers to observe this symbolic meal to remember his sacrificial death. Like the family meal, this meal brings God’s family together around the table. This Sunday in our worship service at 10:30 am we will pay extra attention to observing the Lord’s Supper!

- Pastor Bill Francis

Sermon Scripture: [1 Corinthians 11:26](#)

“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

“A Spiritual Group Effort”

08.07.11

Sermon Series: Ordinary People Following Jesus (A Study of I Corinthians)

(I'm changing things up and am going to cover chap. 12 this week and chap. 11 next week).

I have been impressed by what happens at the end of the Alhambra High School home football games. Win or lose the football team faces the band with helmets off and held up as the band plays the Alhambra alma mater theme song. The first time I witnessed this, the team had just lost – so they were not too happy, but still unified! In a culture that can find a football player and a marching band member in different social groups and possibly at odds, I find this simple gesture of unity refreshing and honorable.

“Social groups at odds with each other” can unfortunately even find their way into the church and Paul seems to address this often in his letters to different churches. Sunday we will look at the inspiring words found in I Corinthians 12 and see how Paul challenges churches to work together and find value in each other’s calling and gifting.

- Pastor Bill Francis

Morello Hills Christian Church

Sermon Descriptions – 2011

Sermon Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

“Love Is An Orientation”

07.31.11

Sermon Series: Ordinary People Following Jesus (A Study of I Corinthians)

Ever met a person who totally intrigued you? Drew you to him or her for some reason? Maybe you've met the opposite – someone who just repels you. And what about you? Do you think people enjoy being around you or not? What makes the difference? Why are we repelled by some people and attracted to others?

There are people I struggle to be around and others I can't get enough of. Why? For me, it's the love factor. You can just tell when someone cares about you; is interested in what you have to say. Someone who isn't as interested in positioning themselves as much as enjoying your company. What's your orientation? Has life drained you dry, or are you surrounded by love being poured into you until you become like an overflowing cup?

Jesus once said that all of God's message to us could be summed up in two things – love God and love each other (Matt22:37). The Bible tells us that God is love (1 John 4). As for me, a follower of God, one of the things I've discovered along this journey is that my Christian lifestyle is one of great and passionate love! This Sunday come love, and be loved, as God's people join in worshipping Him.

- Associate Pastor Scott Williams

Sermon Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:31

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God"

“Embrace The Place... Where God Has You”

07.10.11

Sermon Series: Ordinary People Following Jesus (A Study of I Corinthians)

My son has this Garfield tear-off calendar that has random quotes on the back of each day. He and his brothers were very amused by a quote last month by a Billy Connolly (Don't know who he is). The quote reads, “Marriage is a wonderful invention, but then again so is a bicycle repair kit.” Funny? I'm not quite sure. The status of marriage in our culture is usually up in the air. Like the quote describes, at times it seems very valued and other times relegated as just another good thing (and sometimes even viewed in a negative light).

Sunday's message will come from 1 Corinthians 7 and will celebrate both the value of marriage and singleness. God's desire for each of us is wholeness whether single or married!

Morello Hills Christian Church

Sermon Descriptions – 2011

-Pastor Bill Francis

Sermon Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:17

Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.

“The Essence of Morality”

07.03.11

Sermon Series: Ordinary People Following Jesus (A Study of I Corinthians)

Honestly I would rather just do my own thing, be a free spirit and not be bound by any set of rules. Being the proud owner of a friendly dog, I find leash-laws annoying. I also find speed limits...limiting and seat belt laws confining. And so what if a motorcycle rider doesn't wear a helmet – it's his/her brain! Why so many laws and regulations? Some consider Christianity to be nothing more than a set of rules and regulations (or moral code) and it's a turn off. So, how do we understand the moral code of the Bible?

I find it interesting that though I have a natural inclination toward being a free spirit, I sometimes have a different attitude toward others. The other day I anxiously wished an approaching dog was on a leash. When a guy sped by me I wished he would get pulled over and I found myself thinking critically of someone who was hurt worse in an accident because they didn't have their seat-belt on! (That's right; I'm a bit of a hypocrite!) But these reactions are a reminder that these rules and regulations are not to primarily annoy but to protect! Sunday's message comes from I Corinthians 4-6 and is called “The Essence of Morality.”

-Pastor Bill Francis

Sermon Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

⁹ Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men^[a] ¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

“Got Milk ... or Meat? – A Lesson in Unity”

06.26.11

Sermon Series: Ordinary People Following Jesus (A Study of I Corinthians)

What is it that creates a strong bond, a unity that will stand a test of allegiance? This somewhat daunting question strikes at the core of our relationships with the people around us – those with whom we work, play and live. Three common elements rise to the top of importance when we consider unity and it challenges: humility, belief and maturity.

As we embark on a summer sermon series from the Bible book of I Corinthians we see the author, Paul, address these in depth to create a foundation for a strong church. Our sermon series is titled, “Ordinary People Following Jesus” and Sunday's message is called “Got Milk ... or Meat? – A Lesson in Unity”

Morello Hills Christian Church
Sermon Descriptions – 2011
-Pastor Bill Francis

Sermon Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: ³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.