

## DOING CHURCH AND BEING CHRISTIAN FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

*A Culture of Friendliness and Openness*

Acts 8: 26-40

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*Principle Nine: The importance of friendliness and a welcoming spirit as necessary ingredient of church culture and the development of process of integration of new members and ministries into the body of Christ.*

### Importance of a Culture of Friendliness

The newness of church culture for a new generation

All assumptions off

Clothing

Department

Familiarity with Bible (You know the story)

Music/hymns

Church language (Invitation for Christian Discipleship: Doors of church open)

Can be intimidated by size of sanctuary

Hermeneutic of suspicion and sometimes hostility

Fear of the unknown

### Initiating the culture of friendliness

Personal experience with church that had reputation of hospitality

Most significant persons in initiating culture of friendliness

Parking lot/security

Greeters/hospitality

Persons in pew

Church leaders

Ministry of first impressions

Ministry of setting atmosphere for worship and word

### Lesson from Philip (Acts 8: 26-40)

Was not original apostle but did not let title or position stop him from being effective (Call to individual responsibility)

Insight beyond appearances

(Didn't see ethnicity but potential believer)

Intentional

Helpful

Instructive

Evangelical

Take away:

Joy

Salvation

## Ministry after Salvation

Ethiopian Orthodox Church

What are ministry options and opportunities?

What about possibility of new ministries?

KISS (Keep It Simple Saints)

## Importance of Leadership

Pledging of new members not allowed

Avoiding the "us" and "them" syndrome

New members and ministries are not threats but teachers

Whatever it took to catch, it takes to keep

Turf guarding or territory growing

Importance of why questions

Look for ways to say "yes"

Explain "No" and give meantime strategy

Remember the seven words of a dying church

## Blessing to Philip

Joy of leading someone to Christ

Continued usefulness