

## “Come-ons”

I worked in Ford dealerships for several years before I went to preaching school. I worked in the parts department in a couple of locations and served as Parts and Service manager in Dublin, TX. There, I became acquainted with the standard practice of using “come-ons” to generate business in our shop. We would offer free brake inspections or use a free oil change to get them in the shop where we could inspect the car and sell them other services that were needed. It was all legitimate, but something was needed to attract their business. Once there, they saw how friendly our staff was and learned about the skill of our mechanics. We made Dublin Motor Company attractive to them.

In 1 Peter 3:15 we are provided four traits that Christians must generate, maintain and utilize for the church to be “attractive.” No, I am not talking about commercializing the church. I am talking about showing others who and Whose we are to attract them to take part in that which provides so much comfort and strength for us. The four traits that Peter mentions are sanctification, a lively hope, and dealing with others kindly and in an appropriate fashion (meekness and fear). He “ices the cake” with the instruction that we are not to have an arrogant bone in our bodies.

People can be “turned off” to Christianity through the life and attitude that we show them. We can also, by manifesting the proper traits, be beacons calling them to realize the same blessings that make us what we are. Do we reflect God’s goodness and traits or do we deflect others because of our improper approach?

Sermon: An Attractive Congregation (1 Pet. 3:15)

1. Hypocrisy is not attractive (2 Cor. 6:17-18; Matt. 5:8; Phil. 4:8; 1 Pet. 4:14-16)
2. Hopelessness is not attractive (1 Pet. 1:3-4).
3. Harshness is not attractiveness (Gal. 6:1).
4. Haughtiness is not attractive (Rom. 11:20; 12:16; Matt. 7:1-5; 2 Cor. 13:5).

P.M. – The Illegal Trial of Jesus (1)