

**ATTENTION!**

**Saturday Meeting: THIS SATURDAY!  
PREPARE!**

***Speakers: Tom Thornhill; Micky Galloway;  
Randall Jarrell***

**FEBRUARY 25-26  
FLYERS STILL AVAILABLE FOR HANDOUT!**

**Quotes about Our Influence**

*“Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”* Matthew 5:16

*“Let’s consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds...”* Hebrews 10:24

**Regular Meeting Times**

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Website:  
indiochurchofchrist.com**

**Preacher:  
Jack Critchfield**

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# ***Indio Informer***

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## **More Than We Think**

By Adam Faughn

Have we ever tried to calculate how many different people we interact with during a typical day? I would venture to say that most of us would underestimate that number unless we really started thinking carefully. We would probably only remember fairly significant conversations or maybe people we rode in a vehicle with, plus possibly a couple of others.

But, on a day when we are just going through our regular routine, we likely interact with a fairly significant number of people. Did we email someone today? There is one we might not have counted. Did we go to the store and say hello to the cashier? There is another. Did we make a phone call to pay a bill or set up an appointment? There is yet another. They really start adding up when we walk through a normal day for many of us.

The point of this little exercise is not to just cause us to start counting our interactions (although that could be interesting also). It is to challenge us to make our interactions count! Is it not possible that we regularly speak of the need to be good examples before others, but then we do not live that out in these "small" or "quick" interactions?

- When the service at the restaurant is a little (or a lot) slower than we have come to expect, do we make a scene and act with anger, or do we try to encourage the one who is doing the best he or she can?
- When we have waited in line at the store for a long time and finally get to the register, do we still greet the

cashier with a smile and kind word, or do we become just another complaining customer?

- When we type something on social media, is it something that glorifies God or just something that builds up our own ego?
- When we send an email or make a phone call, do we check to be sure our tone is one that is gracious and kind or do we just "fire off" a message because the person cannot see us face-to-face?

These may seem like very small things, but they are not. How do I know that? Deep down, we all know this is true because we have been on the other side, have we not?

We have been the one who was complained to through no fault of our own. We have been the one who received the angry email. We have been the one who was talked down to even when we were doing the best we could.

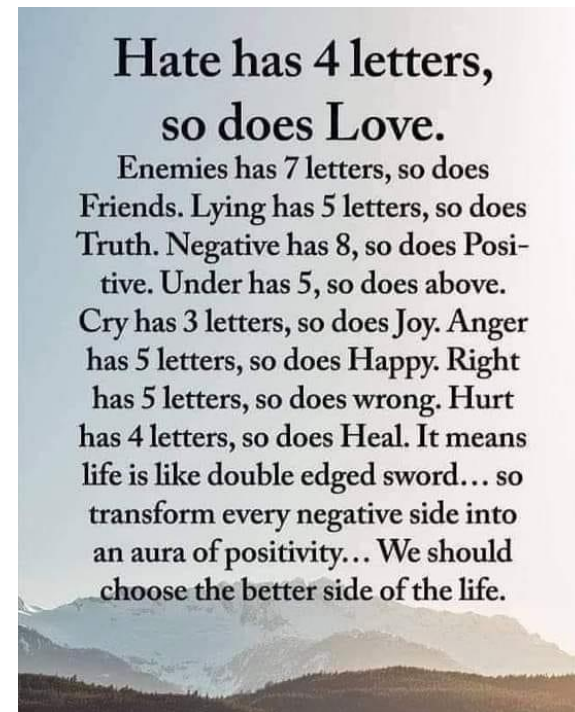
So far, this may not seem like a "church bulletin" article. So far, this may read like something from the "Self Help" section of a local bookstore. I assure you, though, there is a spiritual component to this.

What is it? When we were treated in a way that was mean, rude, short, or such like, was our first thought, "That person must be a follower of Jesus"? I dare say that it was not. In fact, I dare say that was far down your list of reactions!

Why, then, would we think we can act in ways that are rude and unbecoming and it be okay when we are supposed to be reflecting the light of God in all the world? That smile to a stressed-out wait staff member might be the only pleasant thing that happens on the entire shift. Our kind word to a cashier might be the only nice thing said to him or her for hours. The email--even one that is written to point out something that needs to be worked on or corrected--that is filled with reminders of the motivation being love and not spite is more likely to touch someone's heart.

Then, when there is a moment when someone thanks us or returns a word of kindness, will we take the extra step of giving the credit and glory to the God we serve? Will we point that person to our faith, even with just a quick word ("Oh, I'm just trying to be who Jesus wants me to be.")?

As we do, what we may notice is that we interact with more people in a given day than we ever realized. If that is so, then just consider the number of people we have an opportunity to impact--even in what may seem like small ways--for eternity. Let us resolve not to waste a single one of those opportunities.



Copied from a church of Christ website in Pakistan