

*Thank You!*  
*Today's Speaker*  
**Alexis Brown**

**Reminder:** Business Meeting: Next Sunday 2:30 p.m.

### In Memoriam

Our beloved sister Peggy Woodruff passed away peacefully last week. Support Ron.

### **Becoming Effective Christians**

*“From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:16*

### **November Birthdays**

10 Daniel Brown

### **November Anniversaries**

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

#### **Regular Meeting Times**

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

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

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

**Website:**  
**indiochurchofchrist.com**

**Preacher: Vacant**

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# **Indio Informer**

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## **Determining Faithfulness...God's Standard**

The following are “bullet points” from another of brother Randall Jarrell’s lessons which can serve as valuable reminders for each of us as individuals and our congregation in determining our faithfulness! Review the emphasis in Ephesians 4:16 on back page of this bulletin.

### **“Act in Concert with Others!...Interdependence”**

Unlike the tribal life culture of the New Testament era, independence is an American cultural virtue, but independence is not a Godly virtue.

Our challenge in this series of sermons was to help us to see a better way of living...it is all about being Christians who are motivated by true conformity to the image of Christ and not just conformity to the forms of Christianity.

We have learned that engaging in forms does not always present an accurate gauge of one’s ability to be an effective Christian. We will try to stress that as we have moved from “me” to “we” to influence those around us, we will come to depend upon one another to together accomplish much for the Lord.

Just as individuals can attain to a higher level of effectiveness, so can the local congregation.

With the principle of **interdependence** becomes fully realized in our congregation,

- We’ll be able to deal with many tough issues without splitting.
- We’ll develop the courage to study actual issues and not just rehearse creeds.
- No one will seek undue power.
- No one will “slip through the cracks”.

- No one will borrow strength from position.

The concept of interdependence in the local congregation is the supreme fruit of all that we have discovered together in the previous lessons of this series.

When we...

- Act on principles and not circumstance.
- Allow the eternal vision to be our moral compass.
- Put others ahead of ourselves.
- Seek not to judge but rather to influence others to be Godlike.

Then we are ready to become something truly significant in our community and in and through our congregation.

Paul also teaches the very point of this principle that will make us effective in our work as a congregation in I Corinthians 12:12-27 wherein is found the exhortation to be a congregational body where each part is dependent upon the other. The body is a wonderful “whole” that can potentially do great things because of the way the individual parts work together. And, the “whole” can do far more than unconnected individual parts could ever hope to do.

The key to interdependence is found in learning to accept and even celebrate the differences between brethren. It takes much humility to accept and celebrate the differences our brethren bring to the local congregation.

Note what Christ did to accept us...Romans 15:7 cf. Philippians 2. Since Christ did all that just to accept us, how much are we willing to do to accept our brethren? Congregations that find a way to achieve interdependence will grow. Congregations that do not will often stagnate, divide and split.

#### **Conclusions:**

- People who want to be effective Christians come to thrive on the strengths of other individuals. We learn not only to value, but also to celebrate the differences we see in other people of God so that interdependence results, allowing for great accomplishments in the local church.

Interdependence plays many essential roles in showing our effectiveness.

- It stops the criticizing, complacency, competing and comparing...all deadly activities for a local church.
- It builds trust and relationships.
- It creates the safety net needed to truly examine ourselves.
- It creates the atmosphere needed to confess and heal.
- It increases initiative and the ability to risk growth and change in our lives.

Reminders...To be continued...watch next week.

### **The Toddler's Creed**

By Al Behel

Children are special people... especially toddlers. They have a rather unique view of the world. Someone has shared this insight into their thinking, called, “The Toddler's Creed”:

- If I want it, it's, mine.
- If I give it to you and change my mind later, it's mine. If I can take it away from you, it's mine.
- If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
- If it's mine, it will never belong to anyone else, no matter what.
- If we are building something together, all the pieces are mine.
- If it looks just like mine, it's mine.

Every parent of a toddler knows that this is an accurate description of the world as they see it. While we expect this self-centered trait in toddlers, we find it very repulsive in older children and adults.

Many people live almost exclusively for themselves. Extreme self-interest is called “narcissism.” The narcissist thinks the world should evolve around them...everyone should focus on them, elevate them, cower to their wants and demands, and yield to their emotional manipulations.

Self is at the center of all sin. There is no room on the throne for Christ as long as self is king. Dying to self is essential to serving Christ. The apostle Paul taught that we should “count others better” than ourselves (Philippians 2:3).

Sadly, toddlers are not the only ones who suffer from self-centeredness. Our culture worships at the altar of self. Our insatiable demand for fun, entertainment, and comfort leaves us approaching almost every issue with thoughts of how we are

affected, not what effect our choices may have on others. Narcissistic Christianity is not Christ-centered, but is self-centered, and will ultimately destroy itself.