

# SERMON NOTES & LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

## VIRAL! LOVE – THE ANTI-ANTIBODY Curt Brunk 11.15.09

Christmas is the exceedingly Great News that God has come to be with us – even though we have not chosen to be with Him

Spreading the joy of how this changed us, is our primary purpose in life

That doesn't mean all will receive it, many will resist it

God has a way to penetrate the resistance...

Using what God created to understand what He's doing:

A virus attaches to a cell and injects material that reprograms the cell from its original intent to what the virus wants

This is a metaphor for how a healthy person, doing what God intended, can be infected & reprogrammed

New Birth in God is Him injecting His nature / His will and reprogramming us yet again

Over time a cell produces antibodies to protect against injections/infections, i.e. the immune system becomes resistant

So too people...the Pharisees built up antibodies/immune system resistance to charlatans.

Problem was it made them resistant to the truth, Mat 9:32-34.

This is exactly what's happened with your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors

God has the ultimate way to overcome resistance: Love...the anti-antibody

Not just any kind of love, a love that surprises...

God so loved the world He sent His Son...to His enemies – Jn 3:16, Rom 5:10 – some may die for a truly good man, but who dies for their enemy!?

Hanging on a cross His prayer is not “Father judge them for what they do,” rather “Father forgive,” Lk 23:33-34

Jesus' actions and reactions “drew” sinners to Him rather than repel them, Lk 15:1

Why? They knew He truly and totally loved them

NEXT WEEK: Joy to the World!

Every action, even every “micro-expression” reaction communicated God's heart for them...with no compromise

For us to be like this we have to pray until we become the very “micro-expression” of God's heart

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## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What did you hear most prominently in the teaching this week? To what response is God challenging you? Explain.
2. What do you make of Jesus' loving words about his executors in Luke 23: 33- 35? Practically speaking what is required if we want to see lost, very oppositional folks in our lives, the way Jesus does? In God's perspective, are these individuals the "enemies"?
3. In Curt's story about encountering the woman who was harassed by evil forces, what was God's intent for him? Who seems intellectually opposed or very distant from the Gospel in your network of friends & family? Is there anyone in that "space" who you will be connecting in this Christmas season? How is God leading you to pray for him/ them?
4. Think back over the narrative and incidents recorded in Matthew 9 - all stories we have encountered in this Viral series. What features about Jesus and His ministry stand out in these verses? What is praise- worthy about Him here that prompts you to stop and worship right now?

**TODAY'S CHALLENGE:** (Remember to watch for God to move this week and tell us your testimony!)

I will pray for \_\_\_\_\_ to come to Jesus