



The Pumpkin Gospel

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

SERMON BY RAY REYNOLDS (10.30.11 AM)

Introduction: There is no doubt that Jesus was the “Master Teacher” (**John 3:2**). He used a variety of methods to communicate His message. He would lecture, give word pictures, teach parables, offer show-and-tell, and at times He expounded the Scriptures. In keeping with His example, I thought I might do a show-and-tell lesson that can help us think about living for Jesus. Today, I want to teach you a valuable lesson I learned while carving a pumpkin. This is what I call the Pumpkin gospel. . . .

Discussion:

Step #1: Cut it Open & Remove the Mess

Consider the FORGIVENESS of CHRIST

Isaiah 38:17, Psalm 103:12, Hebrews 10:16-18, Jeremiah 31:33-34, Acts 2:37-38

Remember the Heavenly point system illustration.

Step #2: Change the Appearance of the Outside

Consider the MIND of CHRIST

Philippians 2:5, Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 4:6-8, I Peter 2:21, I Corinthians 11:1

Remember Chuck Swindoll's illustration about Mahatma Gandhi (*Hope Again*).

Remember the "**Pumpkin Prayer**" by Liz Curtis Higgs.

The Lord desires to change our heart, soul, mind, and strength (**Mark 12:30**).

Step #3: Place a Light on the Inside

Consider the LIFE of CHRIST

Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:14-15, II Peter 2:9-10, John 8:12, Ephesians 5:8

Remember Charles Spurgeon's illustration (borrowed from Jim Cymbala in *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*).

Step #4: Change The Name

Consider the OWNERSHIP of CHRIST

Remember that we are now called "CHRISTIAN" (**Acts 11:26, 26:28, I Peter 4:16**).

CHRIST-IAN: **I** – I; **A** – Am; **N** – Nothing without CHRIST!

Paul reminds us 4x in the book of Romans we under new ownership (**Romans 1:6, 7:4, 8:9, 12:5**).

Conclusion: What would happen if we tried to replace some the disgusting stuff back? What would happen to the light? This can be factored into Jesus' analogy (**Matthew 5:14-16**). If we are to shine in a world full of darkness, and be profitable, we can't put the stuff back in! We must throw away the mess, forget about the seeds of doubt and fear, put on a new face, keep the light burning, and remember our new name. Are you ready to shine?

WORD OF THE DAY = "Christ"