



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE

SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, MAY 3RD, 2015

THE STIGMA

A Study in the requisite foolishness of following Christ



Stigma - Stē'g-mä

A mark pricked in or branded upon the body. To ancient oriental usage, slaves and soldiers bore the name or the stamp of their master or commander branded or pricked (cut) into their bodies to indicate what master or general they belonged to.

The Brand Name

Which Mark do You Bear?

- **The Beast** (Determined to destroy the Word of God)
- **Adam** (Hip, Cool - favorable in the eyes of the world)
- **Christ** (Establishing the Kingdom and the Glory of the Beloved Son)

The Authentic and the Counterfeit

. . . By their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 7:20-23

The Twos

Sheep and Goats

And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides His sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:32-33

Wheat and Tares

. . . In the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Matthew 13:30

Jews and Samaritans

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

John 4:22

The Fellowship of the Burning Heart

a sacred league of lionhearted lambs with pierced sides

Burning for Christ or Cool to this World

The Idea of Cool

Cool is a temperature between hot and cold; it is not ardent or zealous; not angry; not fond; not excited by passion of any kind; it is indifferent; not retaining heat or light; To cool means to become less hot; to lose heat; to lose the heat of excitement or passion; to become less ardent, angry, zealous, or affectionate; to become more moderate.

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Revelation 3:15-16

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.
So then, because you are **cool**, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My
mouth.

Revelation 3:15-16

Because you are **cool** . . . I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Revelation 3:16

The Art of Branding

Convincing the world that you are part of the Cool culture, you understand the Cool, you drive the Cool, you smoke the Cool, you drink the Cool, you listen to the Cool, you spend your Friday nights at the Cool, and you know the language of the Cool.

Corporate Re-Branding

Is it Time for a Re-Branding of Jesus?

After all He is not a part of the Cool culture - He doesn't talk Cool, doesn't look Cool, and doesn't live Cool.

The Brand of Jesus

Bearing the Stigma

I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Galatians 6:17

The Fellowship of the Burning Heart? How will you recognize them?

30 Defining Attributes of those that bear the marks

1. They are those who are armed with the same mind as Christ was armed - prepared to suffer in the Body (1 Peter 4:1)
2. They are those who do not consider it strange to encounter fiery trials (1 Peter 4:12)
3. They are those who rejoice for the privilege of sharing in Christ's sufferings (1 Peter 4:13)

4. They are those who are unashamed of the fact that they suffer for righteousness (1 Peter 4:16)
5. They are those who consider it the highest privilege to fill up in their bodies what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body (Colossians 1:24)
6. They are those who are immovable and undaunted in affliction, for they know that they are commissioned, even appointed, to suffering, affliction, and tribulation. (1 Thessalonians 3:2-4,12)
7. They are those who are troubled on every side, yet do not get distressed; those who are perplexed, but do not despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)
8. They are those that are always bearing about in their body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in their body. (2 Corinthians 4:10)
9. They are those that yearn to share in the fellowship of His sufferings, and desire to be conformed to His death. (Philippians 3:10)
10. They are those who are not ashamed of the testimony of Jesus Christ, but are partakers of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God. (2 Timothy 1:8)
11. They are those that know that all things (whether it be *tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword, or any other affliction*) work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)
12. They are those that accept with joy the fact that for Christ's sake they are killed all the day long; accounted as sheep for the slaughter. (Romans 8:35-36)
13. They are those that know that all afflictions and all trials shall turn to their salvation through prayer and through the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:19)
14. They are those that are utterly confident that they shall not be ashamed for the confidence they have placed in Jesus Christ, and whether its by life or by death, Christ shall be magnified in their body. (Philippians 1:20)
15. They are those that know that to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:21)
16. They are those that are gladly spent for the glory of God, and faint not through the difficult trials, imprisonments, and the many afflictions. (2 Corinthians 4:15-16)
17. They are those that are confident that as suffering and afflictions tear down and decompose their outward body, their inward man is renewed day by day. (2 Corinthians 4:16)
18. They are those that know that their current afflictions, work for them a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (2 Corinthians 4:17)

19. They are those that know that if their earthly house (their body) were dissolved, that they have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2 Corinthians 5:1)
20. They are those that will gladly spend their bodies and spill their blood because of love for Jesus Christ and for His Body, the church. (2 Corinthians 12:15)
21. They are those that rejoice and are exceeding glad when they are reviled, persecuted, and all manner of evil is spoken against them falsely for the sake of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 5:11-12)
22. They are those that rejoice that they are counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. (Acts 5:41)
23. They are those that are exceeding joyful in all their tribulation. (2 Corinthians 7:4)
24. They are those that consider it pure joy when they face trials of many kinds. (James 1:2)
25. They are those that know that where the sufferings of Christ abound, so the consolation, comfort, and satisfaction of Christ abounds. (2 Corinthians 1:5)
26. They are those whose hope is steadfast and whose endurance is strong though they be pressed out of measure, above their human strength to handle, in so much that they despair even of life. (2 Corinthians 1:6-8)
27. They are those whose boast is in their Christ, His sufferings, and the fact that they are privileged to share in the fellowship of those sufferings - in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths often. with scourging, stoning, stripes, beatings, shipwrecks, perils, weariness, painfulness, watchings, hunger, thirst, fastings, cold and nakedness. (2 Corinthians 11:23-27)
28. They are those that endure all things for Jesus Christ and for the sake of the elect. (2 Timothy 2:9-10)
29. They are those that do not consider the sufferings of this present time as worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in them. (Romans 8:18)
30. They are those that know it was fitting for Jesus to become perfect through suffering, and it is also fitting for them to be perfected in the same manner. (Hebrews 2:10)

The Pattern of the Burning Heart

23 of the 30 above descriptions were given by Paul the Apostle

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you (Philippians 4:9) . . . Therefore I urge you, imitate me (1 Corinthians 4:16) . . . Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. (Philippians 3:17) . . . Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ

For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 2:10

That I may know . . . the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to His death . . .

Philippians 3:10

Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.

1 Peter 4:1

Understanding Suffering

Climbing inside the Body of Christ

The Fool

An idiot, blockhead, dunce, dolt, ignoramus, imbecile, cretin, dullard, simpleton, moron, clod; nitwit, halfwit, dope, ninny, nincompoop, chump, dimwit, dingbat, dipstick, goober, coot, goon, dumbo, dummy, dum dum, fathead, numbskull, thickhead, airhead, flake, lamebrain, peabrain, birdbrain, jughead, chowderhead, dumbhead, goofball, goof, goofus, doofus, galoot, lummoX, knuckle-dragger, meatball, or dumb cluck.

We are **fools** for Christ's sake . . .

1 Corinthians 4:10a

The Krissy Lesson

The Three Options

You Choose Which One You Will Climb Into and Live out Your High School Years

1. The Mean Bully
2. The Cool Kid
3. The Krissy

In Front of The Mocking Crowds

The All-Important Refusal

Saying “No” to the Cool

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, **refused** to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Hebrews 11:24-26

Aparneomai - ä-pär-ne'-o-mī

To deny; to refuse; to disregard; to reject; to forgo

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, **refused** to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; **Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt**: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Hebrews 11:24-26

You Must Refuse Something

Will it be Jesus or will it be Self?

Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not **deny** You!" And so said all the disciples . . . And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will **deny** Me three times." So he went out and wept bitterly.

Matthew 26:35,75

But you **denied** the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you.

Acts 3:14

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, **let him deny himself**, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Luke 9:23-24

The Dying

It's more than just a refusal of riches, it's a very real death

Whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Luke 9:24

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27

It's Time to Make the Decision

The Fear of Man can no longer rule the Church of Jesus Christ

