



BLVD

Why Nobody Wants To Go To Church Anymore (and what we can do about it)

BLVD - WEEK 1

Acts 15:1-21

Connectors don't put up roadblocks they tear them down.

Introductions: Becoming a road that connects people to Jesus

Christians don't often get this right—and when they don't...

When a dispute over baptism could have ruined a kid's life

WE ALL KNOW WHAT THIS IS LIKE...

It's when Christians act like more like road blocks than connectors

WHY NOBODY WANTS TO GO TO CHURCH ANYMORE...

1. JUDGED 2. LECTURED 3. HYPOCRITES 4. WHAT'S THE POINT?

CONNECTORS DON'T PUT UP ROADBLOCKS, THEY TEAR THEM DOWN

Acts 15:1-21

- **At issue**—“Do non-Jewish Christians have to convert to Judaism?”
- **“Certain believers...”** the ones who force the issue...
- **Peter, Paul & Barnabas** - all who have experience with Gentiles
- **Pharisees** - a group who were interested in upholding tradition
- **James** - represents the Apostles and elders at Jerusalem (Jesus' brother)
- Peter, Paul & Barnabas - it would make Jesus insufficient
- Pharisees - signs were not enough if they contradicted tradition (tree)
- James weighs in at last—why are we making this harder for them?
- The only caveat is that they reject idolatry and all that goes with it.

The church cannot make a test of fellowship what God does not make a condition of salvation.

The Art & Science of Creating Intersections (Urban Planning)

Accessible—vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, shoppers, gatherers

Safe—designed to keep things flowing, clearly marked, signage, etc.

Designed for Movement—it's clear that it will help you get somewhere

WHAT IF CHURCH WERE MORE LIKE THIS?

ACCESSIBLE—ARE WE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SHOW OUR WELCOME?

SAFE—HOW OPEN ARE WE TO DOUBTS, QUESTIONS, STRUGGLES...?

DESIGNED FOR MOVEMENT—ARE WE GOING SOMEWHERE TOGETHER?

CONNECTORS DON'T PUT UP ROADBLOCKS, THEY TEAR THEM DOWN



SERMON EXTRAS & FURTHER READING

FOR FURTHER READING:

God Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally

By Leighton Ford

Evangelism for Non-Evangelists: Sharing the Gospel Authentically

By Mark Teasdale

Evangelism Is...

Clinton M. Marsh

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DAILY DEVOTIONALS THIS WEEK:

The daily devotionals will be posted on Pastor Leon’s blog, linked on his Tumblr account, the church’s Facebook Page and Twitter.