

**Intro:** Today we begin a new sermon series I have been thinking about for months...if not years. I'm not sure where I picked it up, but I have a saying that has been a part of my vocabulary for quite some time. I have used it mostly with family up until the last couple of months, because it can be seen as disrespectful, or derogatory. I don't mean it that way...to me it is a simple statement of fact. "People Be Crazy!" What I mean by that is, you NEVER KNOW what some people are going to do...and all too often they totally surprise you...and there is NO explanation for how they act!

- Neighbor in Underwear! People be crazy!
- Snowcone People be crazy!
- Fill propane Attendant: Fridge, Motor off, Water heater off? Yes, You wouldn't believe!

For the past couple of months every time I mention it out in public I get the same response...You are RIGHT...and they are getting crazier by the day! So, as we look at this topic remember this..."People Be Crazy...Love Them Anyway!" That's what Jesus calls us to do!

Today we are going to kick our series off by talking about ourselves...Church People Be Crazy! Love Them Anyway! A quick survey of the NT gives us a LOT of different kinds of crazy in Church! What I want to do today is twofold. First, let's talk about the different kinds of crazy we find in church...and then let's talk about how to love them!

**Warning:** NOT allowed to elbow your wife or husband, can't lean over to see your kids...not allowed to look knowingly at the people sitting across from you! After all...you MIGHT find them looking at YOU!

### 1. 3 Different Kinds Of Church Crazy

- **SELF PROMOTERS** These are people all about themselves...Not about God at all! 4 Different flavors  
**Position and Power:** John 11:48 After resurrection of Lazarus, Religious Leaders upset: No Faith!  
*"If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."*  
**Personal Preference:** Mt 16: Peter: Jesus, let's build a place and STAY here...I love it!  
**Personal Ambition:** Phil 1:15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry...selfish ambition  
**Pride and Acclaim:** Acts 5:2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. (Making a show!)

All these are people that are not about serving God...instead they are about serving themselves...their desires, their agenda's, their purposes and goals. Notice Religious leaders NOT moved by resurrection. Threatened! Peter never had a thought for those suffering in valley, Paul's opponents were not preaching for Jesus, but to get Paul in trouble! Ananias was making a show before the whole church...in order to look good! It is a very sad reality that sometimes churches attract people that want to be important...for position and power. They are all about themselves, their desires, needs, preferences. (DEACONS: WE BE GLAD TO SERVE HERE!)

How do you love: Call Them Out! You are NOT being loving to let them continue a path of personal power and selfish ambition! When someone is seeking personal position and power in church...Have to correct it!

**Trust God!** Pr 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.  
**Rebuke:** Mt 16:23: "Get behind me Satan" You don't have the things of God in mind!  
**Grab the Good:** Phil 1:18 What does it matter? What do I care as long as the Gospel is preached!

- **DIVIDERS, TRIPPERS AND HURTERS:** These are people that are constantly causing spiritual division and putting spiritual obstacles in the way of others. Instead of promoting unity they divide, instead of healing they hurt, instead of helping people go forward spiritually they find ways to trip them up!  
Rom 16:17-18 *"I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."*  
>Dividers: Cause distance between people. Always setting one against the other  
>Obstacles: Put a stumbling block in front of others to trip them up spiritually  
>Hurters: 2Tim 4:14 Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. Lit = He caused me a lot of evil!

**How do you love them?** Do what Paul tells you to do and pray they see, feel and understand why!

**Trust God:** 2 Tim 4:14 Lord Repay: Lit = *to give back what was earned and is due!*

**Watch Out:** Lit = Mark them! Pay attention to those that are regularly causing division in the body of Christ

**Guard Self:** 2Tim 2:15 Lit = Hold yourself off from them. Don't let them close enough to hurt you!

**Keep Away:** Lit = Go out of your way to avoid them! Don't be confused...they are out to HURT You!

Sometimes we mistakenly think that because we are to be loving that means we are to accept anything that goes. Nothing is further from the truth. Bible tells us explicitly how to hand these difficult people. We ignore what it tells us to do at our own peril!

Illus: Do you know some Christians that it simple HURTS to be around? They are always gossiping, always Finding fault, always causing you to feel bad about yourself? Stay Away!

- **BABLERS, SQUABBLERS AND ARGUERS:** They are the people that cannot control their tongues. Always creating an issue in the life of the Church with their tongue. These are the kinds of people that James warns us about when he writes to us about having an uncontrolled tongue. Again, they come in 3 flavors!

2Tim 2:24-26 *"Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."*

>**Babblers:** Lit = 1Tim 6:20 *Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge*

1 Tim 1:3-4 *command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work*

>**Squabblers:** 1Tim 4:2 *I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.*

>**Arguers:** 1Tim 6:3-5 *"If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind,"*

**How Do you Love Them?**

**Love As A Brother:** 2Thess 3:14-15 *Mark them, Avoid Them, Warn as A Brother!*

If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

**Treat Each Person Differently:** 1 Thess 5:14 *Warn them, Encourage them, Help them, And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak,*

**Be Patient and Kind w all:** 1 Thess 5:15

*be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.*

**CONCL:** There are a couple of different responses to this message.

1. If you see YOURSELF...If you have met the enemy and they are YOU! (Twist on an Adm Perry's quote) Stop it! It's NOT OK to say, oh, that's just the way I am! You are not honoring God with that statement. He calls you to be His child...He calls you to More...and with His help you can be that!
2. If you see OTHERS: LOVE THEM! Love may well be putting some distance between you, May well be speaking the truth in love, It may mean that you warn them, that you admonish them, that you correct them, that you refuse to have anything to do with them until they get right with the Lord! THAT is the most loving thing you can do. Continuing to enable their sinful behavior, and that is what it is...is NOT LOVING them...it is hurting them!
3. One response you should NOT have...it to walk around labeling people...talking about them, keep it to yourself and to the Lord!