

The Vine

3rd October 2021



Series: Advent Conspiracy
Message: Spend Less - EFFORT
Scripture: John 3. 22-36

This Sunday we are encouraging you to consider spending less effort this Christmas.

Specifically, we are encouraging you not to over-egg the (Christmas) pudding!

Sometimes less really is more, - and more really is less!

Remember Jesus sees what we keep as well as what we give. Giving and letting go allows you to slow down, open up, and receive. If you miss this part, you risk a hardening of your soul that can quickly lead to pessimism, burnout, and even illness.

So, keep these four essential truths in mind:

- 1. His love is more than enough.**
- 2. His grace is more than sufficient.**
- 3. His mercy is more than we deserve.**
- 4. His power is more than we can imagine.**

GYMPIE → COMING TOGETHER AS ONE at 9am

Next Sunday, we look forward to coming together as one. From 10th October until the end of our summer school holidays, 23rd January 2022, we'll worship together at 9am followed by morning tea in the courtyard.

GYMPIE → CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We're reintroducing Children's Church and we're asking you to be on board:

- We would like prayers and volunteers for children's church.
- People can contribute by offering crafts/skills- preparing special snacks/treats.
- Above all, we contribute by welcoming and receiving this ministry and accepting the mess and chaos associated with it. 😊

A Little Effort Goes A Long Way!

“Most people assume the relationship between effort and reward is one-to-one.

We think that working twice as long will produce twice the results.

That caring about a relationship twice as much will make everyone feel twice as loved.

That yelling your point twice as loud will make you twice as right

... this is almost never true.” Mark Manson

— = +
less is more

- *What if, rather than adding more activities, you reduce and enjoy doing fewer things a whole lot more?*
- *What if, subtraction of stuff rather than addition, became your new norm?*
- *What if, a little less effort could add a lot more enjoyment?*
- *What if, a little more pruning could produce a lot more fruit?*

Jesus described Himself as the ‘true vine,’ and His Father as the gardener who cuts-off every branch that doesn’t bear fruit, and prunes every fruitful branch so that it becomes even more fruitful (John 15.1-2).

Sometimes less is more and more is less. Jesus sees what we keep as well as what we give.

For example, Jesus watched people giving money to God's work and said the widow who'd given pennies had given more than the high rollers (Luke 21:1-4). "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist of an abundance of possessions (Luke 12:15)."

Our real values in life are revealed by what we keep and what we give.

Because selfishness and worldly values are constant temptations, it's wise to periodically re-evaluate where and how we invest, money, time, energy, and effort.

As part of our ‘Advent Conspiracy’ we are encouraging us all to substitute ‘compassion’ for ‘consumerism’ by spending less on ‘consumables’ (stuff), thereby freeing up precious resources for things that truly matter our relationship with God, with others, conversations, people, friends, neighbours, family.

To quote Joshua Fields and Ryan Nicodemus (The Minimalists) -

“Love People, Use Things: Because the Opposite Never Works.”

Grace and Peace,
Orrell

BIBLE SOCIETY ~ FAVOURITE HYMNS ~ 5th OCTOBER

The Bible Society is hosting this terrific fundraiser and it would be wonderful if you could support them. This Tuesday, 5th October starting at 9:30am at the Gympie Community Church building on the corner of Pine & Myall Streets. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea.

Contact Narelle Towner for more details on 0418 729 268.

LAST SUNDAY'S CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

It was a great to see so many at Last Sunday's Congregational Meeting. Thank you. The minutes have been distributed by email and paper copies are available from the Gympie CE Room and Imbil Church Foyer.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOEBOX PACKING → TUESDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Thank you for your very generous support again this year, both in gifts to be included in the boxes and for covering the cost of postage. The shoeboxes will be packed on Tuesday 19th October, 1:30pm in the Imbil Church Hall. If you'd like to help, phone Helen on 5484 3143. We're planning to take a small group from Gympie - please contact Cherylie if you can to join us.

FROM OUR BOOK OF LIFE ♦ This week please pray by name for ...

Kerry, Melissa, Phil, Barb, Jo, Jenny, Brett, Aaron, Kierra, Richie.

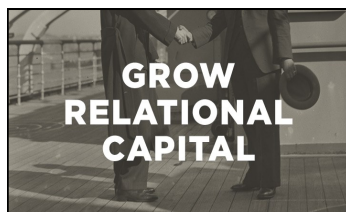
Relational Capital

**How much relational equity do we have to invest?
The currency is family and friends (far, near, close).**

This is the "relational equity" we have available to invest, measured in *family and friends*, the quantity and quality of our relationships with others.

Having family and friends is extremely valuable, and the amount of relational capital we have accrues to us in many ways, from our overall sense of well-being and happiness to more tangible ways.

We see Jesus invest his physical capital to grow his relational capital with his disciples, for example. In fact, none of the other capitals can grow without a relationship of some kind. Jesus invested quite a bit of time in just a few disciples, deepening his relational capital with them, because he knew they would need it for the "job" he was going to give them.





UNITING
So we can be one

Our primary purpose is to fulfil our calling ... the calling of exhibiting the character of Jesus, spirit of humility, love, and unity, coupled with resurrection power, proving that the church is truly 'The Body of Christ' inhabited by God Himself!

DATES TO NOTE:

18th October: Concert supporting The Community Bus. Brad Sorensen will be performing. \$10 includes morning tea. Wesleyan church Hall, 9.30am.

19th October: Shoebox packing - 1.30pm, Imbil Church Hall.

7th November: Our AGM - 1.30pm, Gympie.

CAFÉ GET-TOGETHERS

Come along to our café mornings for a great time together.

Tuesdays & Fridays → 9.30am D'Café (Southside)

Mary Valley → 9:30am, second Wednesday of each month.

RECOMMENDED READING - 5 Love Languages for Men

Books are available from the CE Room or phone the church office - \$22

GYMPIE REGIONAL UNITING CHURCH - HOW YOU CAN FIND US ...

WORSHIP **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - Together at 9am from next Sunday
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Church Office P: 5482 2985 E: office@gruc.org.au
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

Office Hours Mon & Tue 8:30am to 12pm - Thur & Fri 9am to 3pm

Live-streaming Gympie's 10:15am message is livestreamed
Go to 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church' on Facebook / Youtube

OFFERING & ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Attendance: Adults 99 ♦ Children 7 ♦ Total Week's Offering: \$3770.55

Livestreamed audience: 83 views on facebook and 13 on YouTube

Thank you for your contributions to the Lord's work in our midst.

Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,792.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)