

**GREETING:**  
**How To Be Warm and Welcoming Church –**  
**Guiding Principles for a Winning Team**

How do you see the church you are attending? Do our visitors return the next week? When people join our church, do they stay long or soon make the “No-Show” list. Many dying churches have a backdoor problem. When people do come, they don’t stay long. For those who study the history of the Southern Baptist Churches, they have noticed that churches invest a lot in getting individuals to come for a visit, but they make little effort to get these individuals to return and stay around.

Here are some guiding principles that will help each one of us be active on God’s winning team.

**We need a new mindset.**

It is not just the pastor or church leader’s job to greet our guest and make them feel welcome and wanted.

Every member is a missionary and our mission field begins when we drive on to our church campus.

Here are *seven* ways we can be on God’s winning team.

- 1). We must repent of our selfish attitudes in our own life that might be creating a barrier to helping our church become a more welcoming body for newcomers.

Attitudes – you are in my seat.

You parked in my spot.

You are sitting on the pew I gave in memory of my mom

Can you think of any other attitudes that are harmful to the health of our church?  
Confess and repent of them!

- 2). Each time you enter the church campus, pause and pray asking God to use you today to help, assist, and encourage another today.

The scattered and lost sheep are being brought to your fellowship by God.

They come from a world of abuse – verbally and at times physically.

They are there searching for a place that offers them peace and assurance.

They want authenticity – be real and be compassionate toward them and others.  
They want to see if you really do care.

**NOTE** – People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!

How we treat these gifts – our valued guest from God speaks volumes about our fellowship.

3). As mentioned earlier – *every member is a missionary* on the mission field of our church campus.

Acts 1:8, ***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, (your church campus and community) in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.***

You do not have to be elected as a full-time “greeter” to be able to make a difference in his ministry.

Make an effort to get out of your comfort zone (selfish attitudes) and make your way to the valued guest. Say Hi and learn their name. Give them a warm and sincere welcome and glad you joined us smile and word of encouragement.

4). Make an effort to search for new faces.

Offer them assistance to find their way around the church facilities.

Point out the preschool, children areas – show them the rest room facilities. Answer their questions as you walk with them.

5). Make it a priority to speak to as many people as possible.

Learn their names, use their names. People like it when you remember who they are and call them by their name as you ask how their week had been. How is their family, etc.

This conversation is not just directed toward our guest but our members as well – everyone needs encouragement.

6). Introduce your new friends by name to class members and let others know God has blessed us with their presence as our guest today.

Make sure they are included in pre-class conversations and prayer needs before your study begins.

- 7). Now brainstorm with others on ways you can remove the barriers and improve the care of those God sends our way.