

Richmond Hill Baptist Church
September 18, 2011, **not a fan #1: Fan or Follower?**

Prelude & Prayer Time
Call to Worship: *Majestic*

Welcome: Welcome to Richmond Hill. It is good to see you. We are super excited about the “not a fan” series and we are glad to have you with us. If you are a guest please fill out a Connect Card. Let’s greet one another.

Sing: *Everlasting God, Great Are You Lord, One Day*

Children’s Corner:

Announcements:

1. Children’s Party Today
2. Ambassador’s Study starts up on Thursday, Patriarchs
3. Ladies Bible Studies: *James, Magnificent Obsession, Lord is this Warfare*
Retreat: Oct 21-22, Canmore, see table
4. Men’s Breakfast, Wed, 1886 Buffalo Café
Study begins Wed, Sep 28, 21 Laws of Leadership by John Maxwell
Retreat Oct 14-15, Rafter Six, Dan Gaynor
5. Long Range Plan is available at the information centre
Questions talk to a member
OST & Project Team Volunteers
Voting on the LRP at the business meeting, Sunday night, 6:30 pm

Offering & Offertory: Revelation Song

Sermon: **not a fan #1: Fan or Follower?**

DVD: Week One Sermon Bumper

Not a fan – many of you got in the first of six video segments this morning in Connect Class. The DVD is powerful, provocative, and the story line keeps getting better.

We are looking for 100% involvement from grade 7 and up. If you missed this morning I hope you will make plans to attend a home group this week. The options and contact information are in the bulletin.

This morning we want to answer the question: Are you a fan or a follower? You can’t be both. You are either one or the other. So this morning we are going to take some time to do a little DTR. Those who saw the clip this morning know what I am talking about. DTR!

DVD: Week One Sermonette “DTR”

DTR: Define the Relationship

I remember one of those awkward moments when Marisa and I did a little DTR. We were in University we had been dating for sometime. I had called Marisa and her roommate Garon answered the phone. Now Garon was an MK from Guatemala and she had a boyfriend and the four of us were good friends.

Garon was handing off the phone to Marisa when she said in passing: love ya! I replied love you! Marisa gets on the phone I said: I love you too! I am not quite sure what possessed me to say these words but do you know what she says: What do you mean by that?

This is a DTR question! Marisa is asking me to define our relationship. What do you mean by that? In response to her question I said one of goofiest things I have ever said. I said: “You know we’re friends! You’re a girl and I am a guy – we’re boyfriend/girlfriend. I guess what I am saying is that we are hunky dory!” What’s up with that! Hunky Dory. Where did that come from. What does that mean? I looked the meaning of hunky dory. It is defined at “satisfactory” or “fine.”

I was just trying slide to simple I love you into the mix and now I being asked to define the relationship.

Some of know come to church and you try to slip a simple I love you to God maybe in the form of song or prayer and now he is asking you to define the relationship.

Are you a fan or follower?

Some of you welcome this conversation because you are ready to move to a different level of commitment. You are ready to move past the casual and convenient to something more devoted and committed and you’re ready for the talk.

Some of you are not so jazzed about this conversation. In fact you would prefer not to go down this road because like the relationship you have with Jesus. It’s on your terms not his. You like the casual once a week church thing versus a daily relationship and commitment.

Are you a fan or follower?

The word fan is defined as an “**enthusiastic admirer.**”

Fans put on their teams jersey’s. Charlotte is a Pittsburg Steeler fan. Can you tell? Fans fill stadiums. Fans watch games. Fans cheer or grumble depending on how their team did.

There is a great potential every Sunday for churches to be filled with fans. We dress up, go to church, watch the service, and either give the service a thumbs up or thumbs down and we come back and do again week after week.

Are you a fan or a follower?

To help us define our relationship with Christ let's consider his words in **Luke 9:23**:

Then he said to them all: If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Christ is not into enthusiastic fans. He wants completely committed followers.

To help define our relationship with Christ – I have three questions for you.

Three Defining Questions:

1. Why are you here?

Are you here because you like the music? Are you here because you like the sermons? Are you here because you like the people? Are you here because you like the food? Are you here because you like a particular ministry?

Are you here because it is close, convenient, or compatible for you?

Are you here because of a sense of calling and a sense of commitment Christ and his Church?

Why are you here?

Several times in Scripture Jesus draws a line in the sand to separate the fans from the followers. One of those occasions is in John chapter 6.

John 6:1-2

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee, and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick.

John 6:66

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

What happened between verses 2 & 66? Jesus began to clarify the relationship.

Why are you here? Here is a second DTR question:

2. Are you all in?

Don't worry I am not going to **hula hoop!** In the words of 14 teen old that would be awkward.

If Jesus drew a line in the sand in the form of a circle (hula hoop); where would you be? Would you be: all in, part way in, on the outside, on the outside looking, or on the outside walking away.

We like multiple options in the 21st century. Take for instance internet, cable, and phone service. Both Telus and Shaw will let you purchase bundle options that allow you to pick and choose the kind of TV, telephone and internet services that you want.

In a lot of ways we want Christianity to be the same way. We want to pick and choose how we will follow Christ. This is a kind of customized compartmentalized form of Christianity.

Jesus I will follow you but don't talk to me about forgiving the person who hurt me.
Jesus I will follow you but don't talk to me about my money.
Jesus I will follow you but don't talk to me about my addiction.
Jesus I will follow you but don't talk to me about - and you fill in the blank.

There is not option of being a selective follower of Christ. That's fan not a follower.

Being a follower of Christ requires complete commitment. God wants us to love him, serve him, worship him, and follow him with a whole heart. Half hearted and half committed won't cut it.

Are you all in? A third DTR question:

3. Have you made it your own?

Many of us started going to church because of our parents. You have a drug problem because they drug you church.

Some of you started going to church because of a boy friend, girl friend, or a spouse. You started coming to church to appease them.

Jesus is not looking for a relationship between you, your mom and Him. He is not looking for a relationship with you, your girlfriend/boyfriend, spouse, and Him.

In Luke 14:26 Jesus said:

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.
Luke 14:26

This is not about the faith of your parents or spouse. This is all about you and Jesus.

Have you made it your own?

Are you a fan or a follower?

DTR: Define the Relationship

Response: *Wherever He Leads I'll Go*

1. Choose to follow Christ. Make it your own.
2. Get back track. Get all in all.
3. Revisit the Why are you here? Connect with God, His Word, His Church, His Mission