

Biker Ministry Mistakes

Many Christian Motorcycle Ministries have decided they don't want to have anything to do with the 1%er part of the motorcycle culture and that's OK. After all, the other 99% of the motorcycle culture is the biggest slice of the pie and they need God too.

However, we do share the roads with 1%ers and their perception is that it's their job to know who's out there and why. Also, consider that a little knowledge never hurt anyone and could save a ministry group some unpleasant experiences. Besides that, the whole point to any ministry is to create 'conversation' and not 'confrontation'. It's very difficult to win someone to God if you're in their face, being offensive. They won't want you or your God.

Bikers are a marked society. 1%ers are untrusting of strangers and want to be able to place you in a category (safe or unsafe) right up front so wearing colors is a good idea. It will separate you from the unmarked riders that might be undercover ATF or FBI.

If you have a member of your ministry that is part of law enforcement, be sure they wear their badge in plain view (clipped on their belt or around their neck) so there is no question that you are not trying to entrap anyone.

It's not a good idea for a Christian Ministry to don a 3 piece patch if you haven't come out of the hardcore culture. One of the main reasons 1%ers police the configuration of patches is; if they're out on a highway and they see a biker ahead, if it's wearing a 3 piece patch, they instantly go on alert that this will either be friend or foe. Their very lives depend on them being vigilant in things like this.

The best course for a Christian Motorcycle Ministry is to have a one piece patch and never, under any circumstance, add a patch that names your city or state to the *back* of your vest. I understand you may just want to advertise where your church or ministry is located, but to the outlaw, this is claiming territory that he or his brothers could have possibly shed blood over and they don't take it lightly.

Some ministry leaders get angry and go into the *'They can't tell us what to do'* mode. Unfortunately, that attitude doesn't build any trust.

But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? Romans 10:14-15

One Saturday night a motorcycle ministry rode down to a bad part of town to do what they do with their ministry.

When they arrived, they rode around a couple of blocks, allowing their Harley pipes to echo and bounce around the brick and cement, setting off a few car alarms in the process. After about 3 times around, they pulled their bikes into a niche that wouldn't accommodate an automobile and dismounted.

Every biker was decorated with a large silver cross embroidered on the back of their vests, clearly marking their mission. This type of ministry doesn't necessitate door knocking or the passing of tracts (although, they're usually armed with a couple tucked into the pocket of their vest, right next to a pocket sized New Testament producing just enough of a bulge to produce a 'pat down' when entering a biker clubhouse).

Of course, people are usually drawn to a scene like this with the populace coming to view the machines and talk to the 'out of norm' bikers.

That particular night, the group wasn't there long when a warlock (not the M/C) that was wearing his 'Dracula' style cape with the tall, stand-up collar and cloak portion billowing in the wind as he walked swiftly to cross the street toward the biker group.

Just as he arrived at his targeted destination, without hesitation, he stuck out his hand toward one of the bikers and just as the handshake clasped between the two he said "I just wanted to come meet you guys."

Only a few seconds of banter ensued when the warlock announced his purpose for the parlay. "I think you guys are cool, you're not like that guy that comes down here every Saturday night in his suit and tie, carrying that 40 pound Bible of his, pointing his finger in my face telling me I'm going to Hell."

Quickly, before the warlock had a chance to take a breath, one of the bikers quipped with a chuckle and a pat on the warlock's back, "Why would I want to do that? I figured you already knew that!" Then the biker continued, "I mean, isn't that what you're religion is all about? I want to go to Heaven to be with God; that's why I serve him and you want to go to Hell to be with Satan; isn't that why you serve him?"

The warlock batted his eyes like a frog in a hail storm for a fraction of a second then joined the rejoinder with a chuckle of his own and interjected, "I've already broken his nose once."

This couple of seconds of interaction was the 'make-it-or-break-it' point for that warlock. He and his entourage of short-skirted, pierced young girls stayed with the bikers for a long time that evening, talking with bikers about the life-saving, loving kindness of Jesus. They learned:

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again." John 3:16-17

The Bible also tells us that 'one sows and another reaps' and that God watches over his word to perform it, so anytime you sow God's word into someone's heart, God will continue to work on that word. He'll also send someone else across their path to water the seed. Eventually, someone will come along and harvest that seed you planted – I'm convinced of it.

Being harsh and confrontational will get a motorcycle ministry nowhere in the biker culture.