

What would *you* do?

Frank is a new church member. He comes from an unchurched background, but has been enthusiastic about his new-found church. He attends worship regularly, and has signed up for a couple of mission groups during the recent *Gifts Are For Giving Campaign* (our spiritual gifts emphasis).

Frank accepts an invitation to participate in a youth lock-in as a chaperone. He is happy to have been asked and seems to relate well to the young people he has met. He brings snacks and some CDs to play. During the lock-in, Frank plays some “heavy metal” music by some of his favorite bands: Megadeth, Overkill, Monster Voodoo Machine, L.A. Guns, and Slaughter. A couple of kids imitate some headbangers, and a counselor from the counseling center across the hall complains about the noise.

News of this incident comes to the attention of some of the parents after the lock-in. A couple of them complain to Frank about the incident. During a conversation with Frank, he confides in you that he was hurt by some of the comments by the parents. He thought the kids were having a good time and can’t understand why the parents were upset over music that appeals to young people.

He comments, “How else are we going to reach young people if we don’t play what they like? Besides, I’ve been listening to that music for years and it hasn’t done me any harm.”



Rachel, single and 28 years of age, has been visiting our church for some months now. She seems interested in joining the church, but is sorting through some issues about the way our congregation “does church.” Rachel comes from a very conservative church background, and while she likes the acceptance she feels at our church, she is puzzled by behaviors and practices that would be considered “un-Christlike” in the rural church of her upbringing.

Today Rachel attends an informal get-together of our church members. Some deacons are there, as well as members of the Sunday School class she has been attending. When you go to introduce yourself to Rachel, you notice that she seems a little uncomfortable. After some small talk about mutual interests, talk turns to church matters. She confides in you her surprise and disappointment in discovering that beer and wine are being served at this get-together of church members. She notes that some church deacons are drinking wine.