

HAUNTED HOUSE 2: Vampire - Draining Relationships

Chris Fluitt

October 11, 2026

Key Scriptures: Exodus 18:13-23; Galatians 6:2, 5; John 6:53-57; John 10:10, 17-18; Luke 5:15-16

Big Idea: You can love someone without becoming their source of life.

First Christian Church of Allen

Haunted House Bumper Vid

Welcome to First Christian Church of Allen

THE NAME ON THE PHONE

Have you ever had somebody's name pop up on your phone...
and before you even answer it, you're tired?

They haven't asked... said hello... yet
You see the name and think: Oh no!

Maybe you let it ring...
Trying to decide if answering is the Christian thing to do.

You already know...
"Hey, do you have a minute?"
...45 minutes later...their problem is yours.
Maybe it's not a phone call.
...a text. Family. A friend. someone you genuinely love.

But after certain conversations...
THERE JUST SEEMS TO BE LESS OF YOU LEFT.

RELATIONSHIPS COST SOMETHING

Relationships are supposed to cost us something.
Love costs something.
Marriage. Parenting. Friendship.

Following Jesus definitely costs something.
Jesus tells us to serve.
Forgive. Give. Carry burdens. Love people.

So when a relationship begins draining us, it gets confusing.
We start asking: Am I supposed to keep giving?
Is saying no selfish?
What if they really need me? I love them..

**There is a difference between:
LOVING SOMEBODY and BEING CONSUMED BY SOMEBODY.
HELPING and RESCUING.
Carrying burden & carrying responsibility.**

Maybe they're hurting. Immature. Stuck.
Maybe they genuinely need help.

And maybe...
WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO STOP HELPING.
Maybe guilt keeps us saying yes. Or fear.
Maybe we like being needed.
Being the fixer makes us feel important...

One keeps taking. One keeps giving.
Eventually somebody starts running out.
Our Haunted House Message today
VAMPIRE - DRAINING RELATIONSHIPS
A vampire survives by drawing life from somebody else.

Relationships can start functioning that way.
Your time. Your attention. Your money. Your emotional strength. Your peace.

What should we do? Let's go to Scripture.

Exodus 18 shows us...
You can do a Good thing in an Unhealthy Way
Moses is leading Israel.. not a small group.
Exodus 12:37 records about 600,000 men leaving Egypt, besides women and children.

Then we meet JETHRO.

Moses' father-in-law.

He comes to visit Moses and watches him lead.

Exodus 18:13 NIV

The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening.

Morning until evening.

Imagine the line.

Marriage problem? MOSES.

Property problem? MOSES.

Family conflict? MOSES.

Everybody's problem becomes Moses' problem.

Moses is doing something GOOD. Right?

Exodus 18:17-18 NIV excerpt

What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out.

Not Good!? "But I'm helping people."

It is not good because...

you are wearing yourself out.

You can do a Good thing in an Unhealthy Way

...help in an unhealthy way. ...give ...serve

LISTEN UP caring people. Hear this.

SOMEBODY NEEDING YOU DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN GOD ASSIGNED YOU.

Every need is not your assignment.

Every crisis is not your crisis.

Every problem is not your problem.

Jethro does not tell Moses to stop loving people.

He tells Moses to stop carrying everything himself.

The answer is not love less.
The answer is love wisely.

How can we love wisely?

Galatians gives us a helpful distinction.

Galatians 6:2 NIV

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Christians carry burdens.

When trouble hits, we show up.

But then catch this verse...

Galatians 6:5 NIV

for each one should carry their own load.

So which is it? Carry each other's burdens? Or carry your own load? **BOTH.**

Some things should be shared.

Some things are personal responsibility.

Their choices. Their attitude. Their obedience. Their repentance. Their consequences.

Helping becomes unhealthy when:

I KEEP CARRYING WHAT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE.

You keep fixing it. You keep paying it. You keep covering it.

You keep rescuing them from the same consequence.

And maybe you think: "I'm helping."

Maybe.

Or maybe you're helping the pattern survive.

Do you know the vampire rules?

There is an old vampire rule.

A vampire cannot just walk into your home.

It has to be invited in.

..folklore, not theology. ..useful picture.

If you're fighting a vampire:

YOUR BEST WEAPON AGAINST A VAMPIRE IS A BOUNDARY.

...we keep giving unhealthy access.

Access to our time. ...emotions. ...money.

And then we wonder why we feel drained.

We need a healthy boundary.

A boundary says:

"I LOVE YOU, BUT YOU DO NOT HAVE UNLIMITED ACCESS TO ME."

That does not mean I do not care.

It means I know what I am responsible for and what I am not.

WHAT DOES A BOUNDARY SOUND LIKE?

A boundary is not just an idea.

It is a sentence.

It sounds like:

"I CARE ABOUT YOU, BUT I CANNOT _____. I CAN _____ INSTEAD."

Or:

"IF _____ HAPPENS, THEN I WILL _____."

Boundary Examples

MONEY

"I love you, but I can't keep giving you money. I can help you make a plan."

DISRESPECT

"If you keep yelling, I'm going to end this conversation. We can talk later."

REPEATED RESCUE

"I love you, but I'm not going to keep fixing this. I will pray for you, but this responsibility belongs to you."

That is what a boundary sounds like.

A boundary is not punishment... uncaring...

A BOUNDARY IS CLARITY.

Some of you don't need another insight.

You need to craft one sentence.

WRITE THE SENTENCE.

PRACTICE THE SENTENCE.

SAY THE SENTENCE.

Ask Yourself: WHY DO I KEEP OPENING THE DOOR?

Fear? Guilt? People-pleasing? Need to be needed?

Maybe I like being the fixer.

The hero.

The one everybody calls.

This is not harmless. It is dangerous!

Some people are trying to get life from you.

Peace from you. Stability from you. Identity from you. Rescue from you.

And here is the danger:

IF I BECOME YOUR SOURCE, I MAY ACTUALLY GET IN THE WAY OF YOU FINDING THE TRUE SOURCE.

That is a sobering thought.

Because what people most need from me is not for me to replace Jesus in their life.

What they need is Jesus.

JESUS - THE SOURCE OF LIFE

John 6:53 NIV excerpt

Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

Now, that's not vampire theology.
Jesus is saying: **LIFE IS FOUND IN HIM.**

We do not get life by feeding on one another. **We receive life from Christ.**

People do not ultimately need my blood.

They need His.

People do not ultimately need me to be their source.

They need Jesus to be their source.

John 10:17-18 NIV excerpt

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again.
No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.

Jesus says: "I lay it down."

That is different from: "Everybody gets to take whatever they want from Me."

Jesus' sacrifice was not people-pleasing.
It was obedience.

And that gives us the difference:

A VAMPIRE TAKES LIFE.

JESUS GIVES LIFE.

John 10:10 NIV excerpt

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Jesus gives life. ...the source of life.

YOUR BLOOD CAN NEVER SUSTAIN A VAMPIRE.

Eventually, you run out.

- You cannot give enough affirmation to heal somebody's identity.
- You cannot rescue somebody enough times to create maturity.
- You cannot make another person whole.

And you cannot save them.

We have to learn how to close the door and withdraw. Jesus knew how...
Jesus loved people deeply.
And Jesus also had boundaries.

Luke 5:15-16 NIV

Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

There were still needs.
There were still people waiting.
And Jesus withdrew.

That matters.

JESUS DID NOT TREAT EVERY NEED LIKE AN EMERGENCY.

- He did not allow the crowd to decide His schedule.
- He did not say yes to every demand simply because the demand was real.

Some of us need to hear that.

Just because somebody needs an answer right now does not mean you have to answer right now.

Just because somebody has a problem does not mean you have to solve it.

Your Urgency may not be my assignment.

Sometimes you need to answer the phone.
Sometimes you need to let it ring.
Sometimes the most loving thing you can say is:
"I love you, but I cannot do that."

A truthful no.
A loving no.
A wise no.

Musicians

CLOSE THE DOOR. COME TO JESUS.

1. SET ONE BOUNDARY

Ask:

WHERE DO I NEED TO CLOSE THE DOOR?

What is one sentence I need to say?

WRITE IT. PRACTICE IT. SAY IT.

2. START A CONVERSATION

If you're not sure what belongs to you, them, or God... **ASK FOR PRAYER.**

Text Pastor Chris at 972-521-9779.

Text: "Draining relationship."

Start the conversation.

3. RECEIVE LIFE FROM JESUS

In a few moments we're going to worship and pray, and the front will be open for anyone who wants prayer.

But first...

we're going to take communion together.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ALLEN
Your next step matters.

MESSAGE RESOURCES



FREE HAUNTED HOUSE FIELD GUIDE

**Notice the pattern.
Take your next step.**

A quiz and prompts for honest reflection.

GET THE FREE GUIDE



SCAN OR CLICK

HAUNTED HOUSE

Explore the messages.
Keep growing beyond Sunday.

EXPLORE THE SERIES



LEGACY CODE

What you live becomes
what you leave.

EXPLORE LEGACY CODE



Keep the conversation going.

Questions about the message, boundaries, or faith?

TEXT PASTOR CHRIS | 972-521-9779



FACEBOOK

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

Find Jesus. Follow Purpose. Go Change the World.

allenchristianchurch.com | Scan from print. Click the panels in the digital copy.