

**FOUR SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES** (last week)**Living Out the Gospel in Our Own Lives****Seeking Opportunities to do Good to All Men****Engaging the World with Love and Discernment****Seeing Evangelism not as a Program, but Relational**

- We don't merely want them to "get saved" (decision focused), but to be fully integrated into the Gospel community of the church

**See evangelism as multi-faceted/complementary**

- Luke 7:34 – Jesus as a friend of sinners, demonstrated by His eating and drinking with them - in contrast to Pharisees
- There are the more "formal" - preaching (church gathering, open-air, small groups) - literature/media/Internet
- But my challenge is for us to see everything that we do as living out the Gospel, acts of Gospelizing (both one another and the lost)
- "Evangelism" – too often seen as a program or event of outreach (a part)
- "Missional" – empowering Christians to inhabit their lives with the Gospel (the whole)
- Whatever term, it is the desire to incarnate the Gospel in words and deeds
- This is to view all of us as "on mission" in this world - living Christianly means living in the mundane with Gospel-driven impact
- **Imagine that you are part of a church-planting team in a cross cultural setting in some other part of the world (from *Total Church*)**
  - What criteria would you use to decide where to live?
  - How would you approach "secular" employment?
  - What standard of living would you expect as a pioneer missionaries?
  - What would you spend your time doing?
  - What opportunities would you be looking for?
  - What would your prayers be like?
  - What would you be trying to do with your new friends?
  - What kind of community (i.e. church community) would you want around you?
  - How would you conduct your meetings together (especially if you knew non-Christians were present)?

**1.) Pursue opportunities for regular, personal interaction rather than merely of strangers**

- Look for opportunities to serve those around you – nursing home, fire department, city counsel, volunteer work, hospital, crisis pregnancy center
- In your community (as much as possible) go to the same stores, hair salon, places to eat, use the same service providers (plumbers, electricians, etc.), gym, book store, community drawing gatherings, YMCA, homeless missions
- Interact and be friendly, not just be in a hurry to get in and out
- Out of home - ordinary involvement in human activities – sports, community meetings, zoo, museum, book club, class, play day, hiking, guns, woodworking, cooking, school (college, high school), movies – to be in a contact in which people use these things as idols, to be in their midst to show how to enjoy as God's good gifts
- In-home - hospitality (individual families) larger gatherings (picnic, swim party, neighborhood BBQ)
- What are your interests? Where are your gifts? Where are your burdens?
- Pursuing them with Gospel intentionality, not passivity
- for some who are more introverted, this will be more difficult – consider how the Gospel impacts you
  - o an increasingly atomistic culture of pleasure and personal peace – Christ as our example
- extroverts have their own challenge – that of man pleasing – how does the Gospel impact you
  - o to have more than a shallow relationship, but that of deepening love for them
  - o does it break our hearts that they don't come to Christ?
- The heart and desire is to live out the Gospel with all men (both believers and unbelievers)
- All of this bathed in prayer, a God-centered passion for the exaltation of Christ
- We cannot see this as an option – this must become an increase as a core pursuit in all we pursue
- We can't all do everything, but we can seek to do something
- Will you determine to do something? How are you going to follow through?
- For some it will mean something new – for others it means redeeming something you are already doing

**2.) Be a good question asker and genuine listener**

- What has the person been through?
- What are their interests? Ask them questions about what they are interested in
- Ask questions about the "why" of statements they make (conversation turners)

**3.) Pay special attention to the marginalized, poor, and needy (physically, spiritually, socially)****4.) Earn the right to be heard as someone who cares about them as a person**

- for this humility, mercy, and kindness is needed – speaking as a fellow fallen sinner

**5.) Be ready to speak of the impact of the Gospel in your own life**

- for this, you need to have the Gospel making an impact on your life