

7-12-20

Sermon- Every time I Feel the Spirit...

Scripture- Romans 8:1-11, CTW- Psalm 119:105-112

Hymns- 298, Every Time I Feel the Spirit, Brighten the Corner Where You Are

Theme- Today we peak into the toolbox and see what else we can learn about the importance of our becoming a Missional Church Outpost in this community. We know that as Christians we must allow the Lord to convict us and change us in certain areas of our lives. We need to be able to be open and honest with the Lord so that He can accomplish much with us. We see that faith is both internal and external and that we need both to be operating in our lives.

## **I. Introduction:**

**A. Our faith must be internalized in all aspects.** We need to take ownership of the fact that we know that God's Word is truth and that every day we must renew our decision to follow Him by serving in the place where He put us.

Remember the words to the song: "Brighten the Corner Where You Are?" We need to be working that out every day of our lives.

His Spirit bears witness to our spirit...we need to own that as a fact for our lives.

**B. Our Faith must also be externalized in all aspects.** It must be expressed not only through our lives but verbally we need to be able to express and share our faith with those God has put in our path.

Today we will look in more detail at what it takes to, as a church, become a Missional Community.

## **II. What is the Definition of Missional Community?**

**A. This of Course must be in Line With the Call In Matthew 28.**

The call to be disciples there was meant to help us learn how to live as an extended spiritual family on mission together.

This is a group of people who are dedicated to living the principles we talked about in the UP-IN-OUT format which we have discussed.

As believers we are to have a covenant commitment to one another and to God.

We are to recognize a higher purpose- that we have a kingdom calling from God to serve and reach the lost.

We must spend time together learning about God and how to listen to Him. We must be committed as in **Ephesians 4:29**, "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear."

I know people who say that they have faith, but when they are asked about it, they cannot define what they believe.

Could your actions be backed up by the Word of God, as in this passage? Could you explain yourself?

The things you believe, as you know them, are you living them out every day for people to see?

**B. In Romans 8:1-11, Paul writes about two different lifestyles and points out what the Christian lifestyle should look like.**

One is about life in the Spirit of God and one is a life in our own flesh.

One lifestyle is pleasing to God and one is not- The Bible tells us that to live right before God **we must live our life in the Spirit of God.**

The core principle here is that the Spirit of the living God dwells within us and He is directing our lives...and it shows.

Put simply, Paul says that there is a certain type of environment that we are to recognize, seek out, develop, and LIVE-IN.

**III. What is the Environment of a Missional Community?**

**A. There are some terms that we must understand in the Romans passage:**

**“In the Spirit”** means that Christ dwells within us and we operate with His Holy Spirit guiding our lives. **Everyone** should get to participate in the life and mission of the body of Christ, as they are called and as they are gifted.

In other words, every member needs to see and take the opportunity to grow as they have been called by God.

**“In the Flesh”** means that we are tempted to operate by our own standards and levels of comfort, and by our own pleasures. With the fall of man, this is where we were before the atoning work of Christ which was to free us from all that!

Paul refers to the body having many members, but together they make up one body. **See Romans 12: 4-5, Ephesians 4: 11-16, and Colossians 2:19.**

The members of this great body absolutely must spend time identifying their skill-set and spiritual gifts and no-one should be left on the sidelines just watching. We all must have and take the opportunity to grow in our faith and a Missional Community should nurture that need.

**B. In fact, in the Ephesians passage I referred to, Paul gives us a list of the five critical parts which make up the body as a whole:**

**Apostles-** we must exercise discernment as to new ways God is calling us to fill our own unique mission.

**Prophets-** We need to spend time listening for what God is saying to us as individuals and as a group, and then find ways to exhort one another to move onward and upward in our faith.

**Evangelists- Remember that we are Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church!** This is God’s call for us to go out and find ways to connect with the people, wherever they are and at whatever stage of their faith they are in. The **Gideons** are known for having a good handle on this one, so are the **Navigators**...we would do well to study their methods!

**Shepherds-** they pray for people and comfort them and learn ways to be with them...those of you who went through training to become Stephens Ministers know all about this...I think a renewal

of that ministry could help us all in our quest to become missional.

**Teachers-** Everyone needs to do this in keeping with the way they have been given talent to do so. In 1 Corinthians 4:17, Paul remind the people, "That is why I have sent Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of how I follow Christ Jesus just as I teach in all of the churches." We need to look for new ways to do an old thing.

We will not be perfect until the perfect one takes us home, but in the meantime, we must allow God to operate in our lives. The author of A Jesus Shaped Life describes certain "Missional Rhythms which we need to get into in order to be the community of God.

#### **IV. Getting Into Rhythm with God's Purpose for Our Lives**

First, we must understand that there is a place for **every kind of person** in a missional community. A church which is only welcoming to "Their Type" of people, is destined to fail in the ever-evolving world we find ourselves in.

The Covid-19 crisis we have found ourselves in, has left us pining for the way things used to be. I hear the lament of people, wanting to get back to normal. It reminds me of the people of Israel who, when being led out of captivity had the nerve to demand that Moses let them go back to the food and comforts which they knew in Egypt!

The people gathered together and came out with nothing but complaints.

We need to use **OUR** gathering times to find ways to change the way we operate in this community. We need to incorporate those whom society would normally marginalize.

Multigenerational participation should be encouraged as a way to touch many levels of this community. Old models need to be thrown out and new ones need to be bathed in prayer and discernment.

Jesus demonstrated a healthy rhythm of abiding where God places us and developing new ways to bear fruit.

This means that Missional Communities necessarily will establish a regular rhythm of gatherings that focus on the UP and the In, along with regular activities that focus on the IN and OUT.

There is So Much to be done! I pray you will all give this prayerful consideration for our future here on the hill.

**V. Conclusion: Take A Realistic Look at Yourself, This Church, and This Community! One Person, On Day, One House, One Step at a Time, As God Leads You!**

Because Adam sinned, we were doomed to death spiritually because of disobedience. But because of Jesus' sinless life and his obedience, we are offered eternal life in Him.

He is our sin offering- not any person here, not any church, not anything you can do.... It's because of Jesus Christ.

**A. We are not saved because we do good! We do good because we are saved!**

We cannot earn heaven but we can be grateful and serve God and not ourselves.

I see a lot of people doing good things- it is not about being good. I see a lot of people who have done bad things find Christ in their lives and do good things- because they are grateful for what has been given to them.

Because of what Jesus did, there opens up for each one of us an opportunity to no longer be dominated by the flesh and now live by the Spirit of God which fills us with power that is not our own.

The penalty of the past is removed and the strength of the future is assured. Someone ought to be shouting about now!

**B. Remember Paul's words in Philippians 4:4-9** <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to all. The LORD is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard

your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. <sup>9</sup>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-**put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Amen? Let Us Pray...**