

The Church: On Mission with Christ

Colossians 4:2-6

Leader Discussion guide

Illustrations Used:

- Ministry Structure Graphic

Comprehension Questions:

1. There are many New Testament examples of a prayerful partnership in the mission. Let's read through 4 pieces of scripture and identify different aspect of what a prayerful partnership is. Scripture: Ephesians 6:18-20; Philippians 4:15-18; 3 John 5-8; Acts 13:1-3
 - a. What is a prayerful partnership? Can it be more than what we found in these scriptures? If so what else can be done?
2. Do you know about any mission partners FITP Church has? If so, how do we partner?
3. Prayer is one big way we support mission partners. How can we pray with knowledge? How do we get knowledge?
4. Why should we be concerned with mission (with what God is doing in the world)? If a person is not concerned about God's mission
5. **DON'T SKIP THIS QUESTION:** At the end of the sermon, Mark addressed how speaking on missions can be guilt inducing and overwhelming. He gave two realities that can give us confidence to engage in mission. What were those two? (This is Christ's mission, he is with us. Pray for God's help)

Application Questions:

1. Do you feel guilty about evangelism?
 - a. If yes, why do you think you feel guilty?
 - b. If no, how do you feel about evangelism?
 - c. How should we feel about evangelism?
 - d. How do we get from how we do feel about it to how we should feel?
2. Let's spend some time examining our lives and brainstorming ideas of how we can live our daily lives with gospel intentionality. Answer 2 questions for each, 1.) how are you doing at this and 2.)
 - a. Live your life for the good of non-believers around you.
 - i. Think about non-believers around you
 - b. Live wisely – Live in a way that will point people to Christ (James 1:5).
 - c. Make the best use of your time.
 - d. Speak gracious words.

Application: Time of Prayer

1. One of our core values as a group is mission. We want to regularly engage in mission together as a way to model, train, and encourage one another. Tonight, we are going to spend some time praying.
 - a. Below is a list of some of our mission partners. Briefly talk about who they are and specific prayer requests if you know any. Then pray.
 - i. "K" Family, The Branch Church, McNamee Family, Marshall and Jill Lewis
 - b. There was a bookmark in the bulletin that Mark asked us to write names on of people that are in our life but do not know Christ. Briefly discuss then pray.
 - c. Pray for each other to have boldness, clarity, wisdom, and open doors as we engage people who do not know Jesus.

Extended Outline:

Introduction series:

- Following Christ
- In Christ-centered community.
 - o Illus: Church is not a religious services provider. Not Costco.
 - o The Bible calls the church a family, called to help one another.
- On mission with Christ.
 - o Christ is on mission in the world. If we are following Him, we will be on mission with Him together.

Illus: Look at the ministry structure graphic. We go over this in Church 101. 4 things we encourage every member to build into their lives.

- Sunday morning gathering is foundational
- Small group community.
 - o We want to have rhythms of smaller community. Formal or informal.
- Ministry team - Serve somewhere to strengthen and build up others in the church:
- Outward mission – be engaged in the outward mission of the church.

Read Colossians 4:2-6 - Pray

Christianity is a missionary faith. It was started by the greatest mission trip ever. Jesus came and died and rose, and then he said to His church, Go.

2 main ways we are to be engaged with Christ on mission:

1. Prayerful partnership in the mission.

- a. The Colossian Christians lived in Colossae. In Asia Minor, about 120 miles inland, east of the Aegean Sea.
- b. God was also calling these ordinary Christians to care about the mission of Christ in other parts of the world.
 - i. Verse 3 – Paul says, “pray for us.”
 1. **Pray for what:** the mission – v. 3-4.
 2. Who is us?: Paul – a missionary.
 - a. He is not alone: Col. 4:10-14.
 - b. Paul is now in prison in Rome. 1,300 miles away. Asks Colossians to care and to pray.
- c. **The NT is filled with examples of prayerful partnership in the mission.**
 - i. Ephesians 6:18-20. Pray for Paul on mission.
 - ii. Philippians 4:15-18 – Financial support & Personal encouragement
 - iii. 3 John 5-8 – People going out “for the sake of the name.” We “ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers.”
 - iv. Acts 13:1-3 – Antioch sends out leaders. They report in Acts 18:22.
 - v. These are relatively new churches. No internet, no airplanes. Yet from the start, it was normal for these churches and Christians to care about the mission of Christ and to support the advance of the gospel in other parts of the world.
- d. **Application:** How can we prayerfully partner in a NT way? ?
 - i. Pray with knowledge.
 1. When partners visit, get to know them.

2. Monthly bulletin insert.
 - ii. Support and encourage our mission partners.
 1. Financially – 12% of our annual budget goes outside. Plus special offerings. You can also support one of our mission partners.
 2. But support is more than financial –
 - a. **Illus:** Missionaries in China – read and respond.
 - iii. Send our own people out. – Long-term.
 - iv. Go on short-term trips to support and encourage missionaries.
 - e. **Example:**
 - i. K. family. **LOOK AT INSERT.**
 - ii. Big opportunity. A building was given to them. Needs work. We want to help them get it ready.
 1. Pray for team going to remodel the building.
 2. Our church has given \$26,000 to get building ready.
 - iii. In the coming years we want to send 1-2 teams per year to serve.
- 2. Living daily life with gospel intentionality.**
- a. V3-4 – Paul says pray for my mission. He is living intentionally.
 - i. V5 – Don’t just pray. Live on mission yourselves where you live.
 - ii. Our desire is that people will hear about Jesus and follow Him.
 - iii. This happens in organized ways. But programs aren’t the main way.
 - b. **V5 – Live your life for the good of non-believers around you.**
 1. “Walk” is a verb used to describe our daily living. Live “toward outsiders” = those who aren’t in the church.
 - c. **App: Think about them** – Who has God placed in your life who doesn’t know Christ? In your neighborhood? Work? School? Family? Gym? Activity? **APP: Take a minute and write down names.**
 - i. **App:** We exist to help people know Jesus Christ.
 - d. **App: Live wisely** - As you go through daily life, live in a way that will point people to Christ. How?
 - i. **Pray:** James 1:5 – If anyone lacks wisdom, ask God.
 - ii. **Love people.**
 - e. **V5 - Make the best use of the time.**
 - i. This isn’t saying you have to witness all the time. It is saying, you have time, use it in the best way.
 1. **Illus:** Lot’s of potential examples. Think of your time.
 - f. **V6 – Speak gracious words.**
 - i. V6 – “Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt.”
 1. Speak in a way that is gracious, and that points people to God’s grace. Seasoned with salt = attractive.
 - a. Clearly excludes harsh or rude or self-righteous language. Or words that alienate people and cut us off from non-Christians for no reason.
 2. **App:** A Christian should consider this when engaging in Social Media. Ask, “is this article gracious? Non-Christians are reading this, is it pointing them to Jesus?”
 3. Nothing more gracious than the good news of God’s grace in Christ. **Share the gospel. V3 – mystery of Christ. clearly.**
- 3. Conclusion:**
- a. Evangelism and mission can be guilt inducing and overwhelming.
 - i. This is Christ’s mission. He is with us.
 - ii. Pray for God’s help. – v2, v3 - Paul was an apostle and needed prayer. So do we.