

Aug 18, 2019

Speaker: Eric Naus **Series:** Beyond the Boundaries – Living as a Church on Mission

Passage: Colossians 4:2-6

Community Group Questions: "Crossing Personal Boundaries for Jesus"

1. This Sunday, Pastor Eric introduced the yearly theme for Christ Community Church as “living on mission.” He defined living on mission as follows: “We’re joining God in His mission to reach the lost through the saving work of his Son, Jesus Christ. We do this by sharing and showing the gospel in our everyday lives.” What do you think about this year’s theme? Do you think this is an area in which we need to grow as a church? How so? What challenges will we face in living this theme out as a church in the coming year?
2. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossian church, instructing them about what it mean to live “on mission” in their everyday lives. Read Colossians 4:2-6 aloud as a group, and then answer this question: how would you live uniquely if you thought of your very own life as a mission field? What strategies would you employ to get the gospel to people around you?
3. Paul tells the Colossians that they should pray like missionaries. Based on verses 2-4, what kinds of things should the Colossians pray for as they pray with a missional mindset? In your own life, name a few individuals who are far from God that you’d like to begin proactively praying for this year. As you look at your neighborhood, your workplace, your friends, and your family, what kinds of “doors” of opportunity would you like this community group to pray for this coming year?
4. Paul tells the Colossians they should live like missionaries. Notice verse 5, where they should “walk” (live) with wisdom among “outsiders” (non-Christians) and they should “make the best use of the time” (literally: “buy up the time” or as the NLT translates the phrase “make the most of every opportunity”). What would it look like, in very practical terms, if those in the community group lived these instructions out on a weekly basis?
5. Finally, Paul says the Colossians should speak like missionaries. According to verse 6, their conversation should be “gracious,” “seasoned with salt” (that is, winsome and flavorful), and prepared (they should know how to answer various objections to Christianity and questions people raise). In our day, what evangelistic methods do you find least effective and why? What methods of evangelism are most effective in living out the principles of this verse in Colossians and why? Share with the group about an evangelistic victory in your life (if you’ve had one recently). Why did the conversation go so well?

Prayer suggestion: Spend time praying for the friends listed in question 3. Pray for “open doors” for the gospel in each other’s lives. Pray for boldness, grace, and clarity in sharing and showing the gospel.