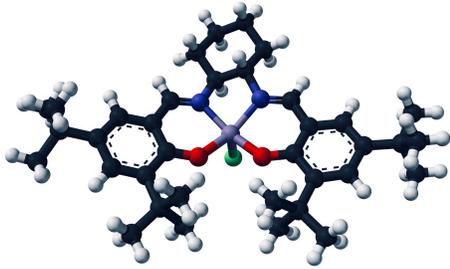


Catalyst Sermon Series 2019



Catalyst is a plan designed to spark conversations and build community around the Vision and Mission of Christ Covenant Church for a the re-planting of a church around a movement of the gospel at 3100 Covenant Road in 2019.

Our Mission is what we do: *Worship, Life, and Ministry Together*. Our Vision is what we long to see: *A movement of the gospel that will bring personal conversion and renewal, community formation, and generous lives serving others for cultural renewal in Columbia and beyond*. Each week we will be unpacking a portion of the vision enabling us to see why we do what we do.

Summary Through Week 4

You can listen to our first four sermons in Catalyst Sermon Series, *Gospel Centrality* from Galatians 2:11-21, *Stewarding a Gospel Movement* from 1 Peter 2:4-12, *God Seeks Worshipers* from John 4, and *God Builds Community* from Acts 2:37-48 at www.ccotc.org/sermons.

We learned that *Gospel Centrality* is what God does that effects everything we do. Gospel centrality has an order, a function, and a power. The 2nd Sunday in the series we learned that *Stewarding a Gospel Movement* is necessary for *Gospel Centrality* to be effective and not just “believed”. Stewarding a Gospel Movement requires God’s presence, his gifts, and his grace. The third week we looked at *God Seeking Worshipers* in the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4. He’s seeking a diversity of worshipers everywhere that he changes by his power in Jesus Christ for his glory. In the fourth week of our series we saw that God builds these worshipers into a community. God’s community is his church where he brings his children into a common participation in himself through his Son Jesus Christ. This community is a community of learning, loving and liturgy. His community gathers around his Word to learn of him, his salvation, and his will. They gather around one another in love sharing their lives. And they share in the habits of a regular life of worship. Finally, we saw that this community keeps growing as they together rehearse the love of God to one another and their neighbors. This final truth we see about God’s community leads us to the reality that we value and long to see *Generous Lives*.

Generous Lives

A gospel centered church does more than build and grow in community among one another; it also connects us to those living in our city and community who do not yet know God through faith in Jesus Christ and who have needs that can be met by generous lives expressed in mercy and justice.

Sometimes interruptions come but God’s generosity toward us in Jesus is an unending ever flowing river of abundance and delight. I was to preach the message, *Generous Lives*, on February 3rd, but sickness and weakness interrupted that plan. Therefore, I offer this summary of the message that will, God willing, be preached on Sunday February 10th from Luke 10:25-37. A movement of the gospel connects God’s people to other people in the overflow of God’s generosity in Jesus Christ. There is a *Foundation*, an *Animation*, and a *Motivation* for the *Generous Lives* of God’s church.

The *Foundation* for generous lives is founded in God’s justifying grace in Jesus Christ. The lawyer in our story thought he knew and kept the law better than Jesus. He put Jesus to the test and sought to justify himself, when his life was measured by God’s law, he should have cried to Jesus for mercy. No one is justified by works of law, but only through faith in Jesus Christ. A life of self justification leads to judgmental and broken relationships with others in need. But when we are poor in spirit we are blessed by the grace of God in Jesus Christ, and being accepted and loved in him, having all our sins paid for and taken away, we live generous lives toward others in need of his words and deeds. *Generous Lives are founded on being justified in Jesus Christ*.

The *Animation* of *Generous Lives* is loving, serving, and doing justice. The justifying grace of God in Christ propels us into a loving relationship with our neighbors. The lawyer seeking to justify himself asked Jesus, ‘Who is my neighbor?’. The Samaritan in Jesus’ story had a loving compassion on his neighbor in need. Our neighbors are people of varying nationality, race, sexual orientation, social strata, beliefs, and practices. Our neighbors are orphans, widows, hungry, thirsty, naked, and people of fear. Our neighbors are those God places in our life who we’re called to love. *Generous Lives* loves those in need with the same resources, passions, and efforts we love ourselves.

Generous Lives are animated in serving. The Samaritan in Jesus’ story served. He was not traveling to be served but to serve and give of his life for his neighbor in need. He served him in the present, and he served him so that his needs would be met in the future. It is more blessed to give than receive. The great ones in God’s kingdom are those who serve their neighbors with their words and deeds. Serving is the animated generous life of those justified by faith in Jesus Christ.

Generous Lives are animated in doing justice. Doing justice or living in righteousness is not merely avoiding gross sin and being generally obedient to God’s law. Doing justice is a generous justice toward our neighbors in need. The Samaritan in the story disadvantaged himself for the advantage of another. Wicked people disadvantage others for their own advantage. Therefore, God calls his righteous children in Jesus Christ to the animated life of generous justice. Generous justified lives do justice is everyday generosity in the community we live. Generous justice is a sharing out of the wealth of our basic resources to meet others needs. If God could draw a story board of the animated life of his kingdom it’s pictures would tell the story of generous lives in loving their neighbors by serving them in their needs through generous justice. But what motivates our generous lives?

The *Motivation* for generous lives is not obligation but the substitutionary love of God in Jesus Christ. In the story Jesus is telling his lawyer friend the Samaritan is not obligated by anything in the man he shares his life with in generosity. There is animosity between the Samaritan and the Jew. There is nothing that merits the Samaritan’s generous life. This story is not a moral tale to guilt us into doing good to our neighbor. It is a story of God’s unyielding, undying love for us in Jesus Christ. We are those on the road in need. We are those torn by an unyielding world of ours and others sin. Jesus is the unwanted one who gives all that he has in his own life for us that by this undeniable substitutionary love he will be the one we want to meet and satisfy all our deepest needs. And when he fills us with this love in himself we’re motivated for a generous life toward others, not because of anything in people, but because it is our joy to see him meeting the needs of others through our lives in him.

Catalyst Conversations...Sign Up for One in the Narthex at Barnwell St.

Please take the opportunity to participate in a Catalyst Conversation by signing up after Worship or Life Groups. Catalyst Conversations are an opportunity for you to participate with other church members, regular attenders, and guests in a discussion around CCC’s Vision and Mission. We desire that you have an opportunity to engage yourselves and affirm together what we believe is God’s biblical vision for his church. The Catalyst Conversation is a small group gathering of 8-10 people facilitated by a couple (husband & wife) who will be prepared to lead the discussion. You will be discussing questions like:

- ❖ Why is it important for a particular church to have a vision and mission?
- ❖ Why could the CCC Vision and Mission be timeless, used now and in the future?
- ❖ What do you like about the Vision and Mission of Christ Covenant Church?
- ❖ What questions or concerns do you have?

The Conversations will begin mid February and conclude by March 31. Our facilitators have provided the following dates for Catalyst Conversations. Please sign up for one in the lobby of the Barnwell Street campus.

- ❖ Peter & Samantha Wilkerson - Thursday February 21, 6:00 PM & Tuesday March 5, 6:00 PM
- ❖ Ryan & Morgan Evans - Thursday February 21, 7:00 PM & Thursday March 7, 7:00 PM
- ❖ Brad & Loretta Carnahan - Saturday March 2, 10:30 AM & Saturday March 16, 10:30 AM
- ❖ David & Amanda Campbell - Monday February 25, 7:00 PM & Friday March 15, 7:00 PM
- ❖ Jordan & Makala Smith - Friday February 15, 7:00 PM & Wednesday March 6, 7:00 PM
- ❖ Scott & Sandy Dinkins - Tuesday February 26, 7:00 PM & Tuesday March 19, 7:00 PM

We desire that the Catalyst Sermon Series and the Catalyst Conversations will lead us as a church toward a planning process for the re-planting of Christ Covenant Church at 3100 Covenant Road. Therefore, your participation in these conversations is vital to a movement of the gospel at Christ Covenant Church where we do worship, life and ministry together for his glory and the good of the city. Thank you for signing up to participate.