

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
March 5, 2017

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Sunday Morning 03-05-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"  
When was the last time you asked?  
<http://bible.com/events/181365>

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[Image]

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Our theme for 2017 is Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."

These two simple words will transform every person that accepts the challenge.  
I pray that in the next few months all of us in this church, as well as those  
who join us, will see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him  
more nearly.

How can a person who is not a gifted evangelist help those far from God to come  
home in Jesus?

We know God wants people far from him to come home.  
In fact, He's working to make it happen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in every  
inhabited place on this planet.

Colossians 4:2-6 NIV

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too,  
that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery  
of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I  
should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every  
opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt,  
so that you may know how to answer everyone.

There are two kinds of Jesus followers -  
those like Paul who are gifted evangelists and  
those like the Colossians who are evangelistic believers.

1 Peter 3:15-16 NIV

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer  
to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do  
this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who  
speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their  
slander.

Sermon in a Sentence:

We all must actively love as Jesus loves, but when it comes to speaking, most  
of us answer questions while a few of us proclaim.

Counterculture Living:

You have a part to play in God's plan to bring people into His kingdom family.  
Most of the training and teaching about evangelism that I've experienced felt  
unnatural. It did not fit.

Have you heard somebody tell a story about sitting next to a total stranger on an airplane and they led them to receive Jesus? Does that seem strange to you? God's plan for bringing people back into his kingdom family is different. You have a part to play in bringing others back, even if you aren't a gifted evangelist.

Overview of the 5 Habits of Great Bridge Builders

1. Bless 3 people each week
2. Eat with 3 people each week
3. Listen to the Holy Spirit
4. Learn more about Jesus
5. See yourself as sent to share your story

To bless others is to build them up, to fill them with encouragement for them to increase in strength and prosperity.

Anything that relieves their burden in life. Anything that helps them breathe more easily. Anything that lifts their spirit or alleviates their distress. It can be a small thing or large.

Citation: Frost, Michael. Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People (Location 351, 356). NavPress. Kindle Edition.

Three ways to bless someone:

- [1] Words of Praise
- [2] Purpose Filled Acts of Kindness
- [3] Give A Thoughtful Gift

We work with the Holy Spirit to change the eternal destiny of people all around us.

Start now

Start where you are

Devote yourself to prayer

Bless others at the time that you make in your schedule