

Luke 11:33-36

³³ "No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. ³⁴Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. ³⁵Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. ³⁶If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light."

Vs. 34 (What you see, your vision, effects what is in your body!)
We love when God reveals truth to us.

Community and Mission go together. Purpose and Presence go together.

Trinity—Deliberate Community on an intentional mission!
Presence and Purpose go together. We are a people with the manifest presence of God and a people with a clear purpose to be His witnesses and make disciples!

Not just purpose, but presence—(it certainly is good to have a purpose)
Not just music, but presence.
Not just routine or rush, but presence.
Not just preaching, but presence.
Because we gather in his name—God's presence has come to town in a unique way!

Eph. 2:22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Jesus saves us into a relationship with him and into his community—the church.

We are a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.

Our loving relationships provide the platform for our evangelistic impact!
The presence of God is the power to see lives changed!

First look at Jesus' life---full of the Holy Spirit! Ultimate missionary!
Read Luke and Acts!

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and

Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

First you start on mission where you live!
Go across the street before you go across the world!

How is your witness in Jerusalem? (Where you live)

Look at the Apostle Paul

The advance of the gospel through the establishing and maturing of local churches.

Paul knew that if he could get a group of believers who loved God, loved each other, loved their city, committed to being his witnesses, to going further....his job was done!

John Wimber---"If it doesn't lead to planting and establishing more churches...I don't want to be part of it."

We are to be clear in our expansionist, missional, multiplying mindset. Saved, added—joined to a body, disciplined to effectiveness (Monday thru Sunday), being a sent people...all the while enjoying the person and presence of God!

God has called us to lead people to Jesus, to help them become totally, completely, fully, and radically devoted to Him. We make God first and we take a distant second place. We want to see people saved, added, disciplined, and becoming effective in what God has called them to be. To be a people engaging with culture and bringing about change in our city and beyond!

Assessment:

Growing in our ecclesiology—(Church nature and values)

God always gets his way. Reformed theology.

We love Jesus, We Love Spirit, love to worship, love to pray.

Newfrontiers—heritage of restoration. Lets restore grace, spirit, servant leadership, one new man in Christ—not old people church or young people church etc.

Sense of community—family.

Weaker in terms of our mission—not seeing enough souls saved!

Need to impact our society and culture more!

How can we win more souls?

5 potential pitfalls of Charismatic churches: (from Mark Driscoll)

1. Can emphasize the Holy Spirit at the expense of Jesus.
2. Can emphasize Pentecost at the expense of the cross and resurrection of Jesus.
3. Over the top health and wealth prosperity gospel—no place for pain and poverty.
4. Can emphasize leader more than Jesus.
5. Not fully Committed to mission. (Number 5 is where we might fall into.) Should be moving more quickly—It is possible to be doing much more!

4 types of churches:

1. Bombshelter church— Insulated and protected. Not missional. Classic fundamentalism.
2. Church as a mirror—simply reflect culture
3. Church as a parasite---enjoy the city but don't give back much.
4. Church as a city within a city. Different but not in an adversarial way.

Our Response:

1. Be Convinced theologically that growth is God's plan
 - Jesus doesn't want us to just think us and now (you are in and you are safe).
 - Jesus wants us to think about them and the future. (Missional thinking!)
 - We can be a huge redemptive center. We can see multitudes saved and added.
 - Reason to exist is to win souls!! Whole thing is to be a mission!
2. Inhabit the land
 - Jeremiah 29:4-7 ⁴"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.
 - Be where God has you.
 - Make our homes places of engaging the culture.

- Lets think taking ground! Lets think winning souls!
3. Be intentional with our time.
 - Business causes us to be ineffective. Intentionally slow down. Intentionally plan.
 4. Being sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
 - Intentionally Ask God what He is wanting to do?
 5. Be courageous to ASK!