

Live Out Loud
Courageous and Contagious
Get Excited about Making an Impact
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Jan. 31, 2016

As you get excited about making a difference, living for Jesus and the Gospel, you may wonder how to really live this out. You may not even be sure where to start to begin to make an impact on the world around you. Here's a couple ways to look at it.

High Potency + Close Proximity + Clear Communication = Maximum Impact

or

Potency + Proximity + Proclamation = Maximum Impact

Let's look at the biblical basis for potency, proximity, and proclamation.

I. You'll Never Make an Impact on People Around You without Being Salty and Full of Light

Our world is in a state of moral decay, but that's no reason to despair because it's why God has us here. We are supposed to be salt and light in the midst of a culture where the smell of decay and death all around us.

Matthew 5:13-16 ¹³“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Jesus uses two metaphors to describe us: Salt and Light.

Luke 10:38-42 ³⁸Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.” ⁴¹And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴²But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Mary chose the good part, which was to spend time with Jesus. When you spend time with Jesus—worshipping, listening, and enjoying being with Him, you'll become like Him. Get up early and read your Bible so that you can SEE your Savior. Then pray – talk to Him. Tell Him about your day and ask Him to go with you.

The very first Christians who were trying to make a difference, spent unhurried time with Jesus and that gave them boldness, which allowed them to make an impact on people around them.

Acts 4:13 “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”

Don't expect to LIVE like Jesus if you haven't been WITH Jesus!

The level of your potency will largely be determined by the extent to which you make time for the basic spiritual disciplines of DAILY contact with God's Word, daily prayer, and regular contact with God's people at close range.

II. You'll Never Make an Impact on this World by Hiding or Working so Hard to Eliminate All Contact with Unbelievers in Your Life

Jesus didn't do that and neither should we.

In fact, Jesus was constantly accused by the religious fundamentalists of His day, that He was hanging out with all the wrong people and showing up in all the wrong places. Jesus spent time with unbelievers. That means He went where they went. He leaned into the darkness and decay and so should we.

Unless the salt gets out of the salt shaker and up against everything around us it's just a mere table ornament. And unless LIGHT steps into the darkness it's just a Christian light-show for ourselves!

Look at Jesus' high priestly prayer that He prayed for His followers **John 17:13-19**.

It's hard to be in close proximity with the kinds of people you used to run with. But remember, you're more LIKE them than different. That was YOU before Christ saved you!

Jesus doesn't call us to isolation. He calls us to high potency and then proximity.

Ask God to revamp the way you see your job and to consider yourself a Christian on mission in that field. Ask God to give you eyes to see where you already live, work, or go to school.

III. You'll Never Make an Impact Without Opening Your Mouth and Speaking Words

So What about You?

Rate yourself on Potency (Circle where you are – 1 being very poor, 10 being exceptional)

- How salty and full of light are you?

1—2—3—4—5—6—7—8—9—10

- What could you change in your life to increase your level of potency?

- Start reading the Bible daily
- Get up earlier and pray for 5-10 minutes for myself and for other people by name before I leave for school or work
- Memorize and mediate on some verses that remind me of who I am in Christ and what He calls me to do, by His grace and for His glory.
 - 2 Corinthians 3:4-6
 - 1 Peter 3:14-17
 - Romans 12:1-2
 - Acts 1:8; Acts 4:13

- Re-arrange my schedule to join a small group so that I can rub up against other contagious believers at close range
- Purchase a good book from our Resource Center and read it
 - 'Becoming a Contagious Christian' Bill Hybels
 - 'Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God' J.I. Packer
 - 'The Unexpected Journey' Thom Rainer
 - 'Honest Evangelism' Tico Rice

Rate yourself on Proximity

- How close are you to unbelievers – and those outside the family of God?
1–2–3–4–5–6–7–8–9–10
- In what areas below could you step it up to intentionally put yourself around unbelievers?
- Neighborhood (holiday events, committees, special gatherings)
- Workplace
- Gym / Jazzercise / YMCA / Etc.
- Shopping (choose to frequent same stores)
- Coffee shops (you often see the same people there)
- Favorite restaurants (learn names, tip 20% or more, speak, leave church card or tract, ask how you can pray for them)
- School / campus
- Salon / Barber
- Car Maintenance (tire store, oil change, repair)
- Medical Offices
- Children's activities (sports, art, play-groups, etc.)