

Live Out Loud

Courageous and Contagious

Keep the Message Clear and Simple

Grace Fellowship Church, Pastor Brad Bigney, Feb. 7, 2016

There are some things that need to be in place if you really want to make an impact on the people around you for the kingdom of God.

High Potency + Close Proximity + Clear Communication = Maximum Impact

Or

Potency + Proximity + Proclamation = Maximum Impact

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

In **Matthew 5:13-16**, Jesus calls us, as His followers, to be salt and light.

- How do you get salty and full of light and how do you STAY that way?

You have to sit at the feet of Jesus, spend time with Him, and hear His Word! Look at it **Luke 10:38-42**.

- Did you make any changes in your life this past week to choose that best part?

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 initiated conversations with unbelievers. He went where they went. He leaned into the darkness and decay- not away.

He's called us to be holy and to be different, but He's also called us to penetrate the darkness.

The rhythm of a biblical, healthy, salty Christian looks like this: High Potency --- Close Proximity.

If you don't keep the rhythm of high potency- close proximity, you can fall out of balance, which can get you in trouble on either end.

There are two radically different ditches that Christians fall into on this issue:

1. Christians who try to find a way to make high potency and low proximity add up to maximum impact, but it'll never happen because God never called us to a Christian commune or fortress mentality.

2. Christians who are off the chart with all the proximity you could imagine. You find them wherever you find unbelievers, but you also find them doing just about everything that unbelievers are doing with little or no distinction whatsoever.

There has to be a distinct potency and savor of Jesus about you. Jesus calls us to PROXIMITY without COMPROMISING holiness in our lives.

I Peter 2:9-11 ⁹But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. ¹¹Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹²having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

I Peter 4:3-4 ³For there has already been enough time spent in doing what the pagans choose to do: carrying on in unrestrained behavior, evil desires, drunkenness, orgies, carousing, and lawless idolatry. ⁴So they are surprised that you don't plunge with them into the same flood of wild living—and they slander you.”

No matter what you look like or where you're hanging out, there has to be things about you that are radically different than the world. That's why clear communication is essential.

John 17:15-20 ¹⁵I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. ²⁰“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word”

Jesus said I am praying for all those who are going to believe in Me through their word. From the very beginning Jesus intended to use us to speak words so that other people could come to Christ.

III. You'll Never Make an Eternal Impact On the People Around You without Speaking Words

Remember, you don't have to say everything at once, but think in terms of several blocks of critical information a person needs to understand if they're going to come to Christ for salvation.

God - Us - Jesus - You

There's more than one way to go about this, but as often as possible, USE your Bible. The book of Romans is a great book to use to show all four of these components.

A. God

- There is a God and you know it! – Romans 1:18-20
- You just wish there wasn't – Romans 1:28
- And He's not just a God of love but He's holy and angry about sin – Romans 1:18

B. Us

- You know there is absolute truth, as well as right and wrong
 - Who suppress the truth Rom. 1:18
 - Who know God's law – Rom. 2:15
- You're a sinner by birth and by choice – Rom. 3:23

C. Jesus

- Jesus died to pay for our sins – Rom. 5:6, 8
- Jesus now offers a free gift of forgiveness and eternal life – Rom. 6:23

D. You

- You can be saved by faith in Christ – Rom. 10:9-11
- And this means having a relationship with Jesus Christ

A great way of making a distinction between religion and what Jesus Christ has done for us is to say to people:

Religion is spelled 'D – O' because it's all about what you're trying to DO to be good enough or to earn God's favor. It's all focused on what YOU are doing and trying to do to be good enough for God to accept you.

But a relationship with Jesus, which is what Christianity is all about, is spelled 'D – O – N – E' because it's focused on the finished work of Jesus Christ when He lived a perfect life and died the only perfect death to pay for our sins.

The book of Hebrews makes this distinction so clear! Read **Hebrews 9:24-10:14**.

That's the same reason that He cried out from the cross the way He did just before He died. Read what he said in **John 19:28-30**.