

Better Together (part 9)

11.14.2018

Subtitle: Ten Things You Can Do to Help Your Church Reach Out

Review

1 Timothy 3:14-15

I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, so that if I am delayed, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth.

1. Remember that God is body-conscious!
2. We together create an atmosphere ...
3. Don't let yourself be used like a cancer cell.
4. The way we treat each other is the way we treat Jesus Himself!
5. Think, act, and speak unity.
6. Allow love to help you overlook the flaws and misdeeds of others.
7. Be careful of personal bitter root judgments.
8. Don't gossip about or slander others.

Matthew 16:13-19 - NLT

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" (14) "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." (15) Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" (16) Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (17) Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. (18) Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. (19) And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

Jesus is interested in local churches!

Most of the epistles are letters written to local churches.

Jesus wrote letters to seven churches.

Strong local churches are God's passion today. "Strong local churches" means that the people in that church are growing spiritually and have a personal passion for Jesus!

I have four major passion points for every member of VC:

I want you to become close and intimate with Jesus, to become free from flesh entanglements, to discover what God placed in you, and then use those gifts to bless others.

Victory Church is helping each person become who God created them to be!

Ten Things You Can Do to Help Your Church Reach Out

1. Pray for each person

Ephesians 1:17-23 - NLT

Asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. (18) I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

(19) I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power (20) that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. (21) Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. (22) God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. (23) And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

Ephesians 3:14-19 - NLT

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, (15) the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. (16) I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. (17) Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. (18) And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. (19) May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Colossians 1:9-12 - NLT

So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. (10) Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. (11) We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, (12) always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

2. BE an atmosphere enhancer.

Ephesians 2:19-22 - JB Phillips

So you are no longer outsiders or aliens, but fellow-citizens with every other Christian—you belong now to the household of God. Firmly beneath you in the foundation, God's messengers and prophets, the actual foundation-stone being Jesus Christ himself. In him each separate piece of building, properly fitting into its neighbour, grows together into a temple consecrated to God. You are all part of this building in which God himself lives by his spirit.

3. Be aware of the purpose of each service at Victory.

We are strategic in what we are doing!

Sunday mornings are primarily the times when non-Christians attend. The services are shorter, the content geared so they can understand what is happening.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to move strongly in these meetings!

4. Be a unity promoter.

Speak a kind word to people.

Get involved in prayer meetings.

Get involved in a small group or in our Dream Team.

Romans 15:6 - NKJV

That you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:10 - NKJV

Now I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.

5. Ask God to do the impossible.

Mark 9:23 - NKJV

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Ephesians 3:20 - NKJV

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us

6. Invite people to come to church with you.

2 Corinthians 5:16-20 - MSG

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.

Meet them here.

Let them sit with you.

Give out our business cards.

Invite friends on facebook.

7. Look for ways to be an encourager.

All of us need an encouraging word!

Isaiah 50:4 - NKJV

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to hear as the learned.

Ephesians 4:29 - AMP

Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.

Ephesians 4:29 - NCV

When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you.

Ephesians 4:29 - NLT

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Ephesians 4:29 - The Voice Translation

Don't let even one rotten word seep out of your mouths. Instead, offer only fresh words that build others up when they need it most. That way your good words will communicate grace to those who hear them.

Encourage our Dream Team volunteers.

8. Be willing to look past imperfections.

Ephesians 4:2 - NLT

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.

Colossians 3:14 - NLT

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

9. Give us your ideas!

Email them or put them in the black boxes by the door.

Give us grace to think and pray over them in the light of the direction God has given us for ministry at Victory.

10. Be a servant.

Mark 10:42

So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them.

Mark 10:43-45 - NKJV

Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Look for ways to serve other people.

Volunteer in our Dream Team. There are so many ways to help out there.

Participate in any of our outreaches.