

Connect: 40 Days of Growing Warmer and Stronger Together
September 17, 2023

Romans 10:13-15, NLT – For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”

The church exists to _____ with the world.

Connecting Others with Jesus

1. God made me to be _____

Matthew 28:19-20a, NIV – [Jesus said,] “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 4:19 (ESV – [Jesus said,] “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Sharing the Gospel brings blessings...

1 Corinthians 9:23, NLT – I do everything to spread the Good News and share (sygkoinonos) in its blessings.

John 20:21, NLT – [Jesus said,] “Peace be with you! As the father has sent me, I am sending you...”

John 14:12a, GW – [Jesus said,] “I can guarantee this truth: Those who believe in me will do the things that I am doing.”

Matthew 6:19-21, NLT – [Jesus said,] “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

2. It’s an opportunity to _____

2 Timothy 1:7, NCV – God did not give us a spirit that makes us afraid but a spirit of power and love and self-control.

Three Common Fears When Sharing with Others

- The fear of _____

John 1:11-12, NLT – He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

- The fear of _____

Matthew 5:11-12, NLT – [Jesus said,] “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”

- The fear of _____

John 14:6, NIV – Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Isaiah 55:11, NLT – It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

3. _____ to share

1 Peter 3:15, NIV – 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...

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Titus 3:3-7, NIV – At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

(Also see: Isaiah 53:5; Mark 10:45; John 3:16; Acts 10:43; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 2 Timothy 2:8; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 4:10)

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Matthew 10:16, NIV – [Jesus said,] “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”

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Ephesians 6:19-20, NIV – Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel... Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

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Ephesians 2:19b, LB – ...You are members of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.