

A Global Church

(Colossians 4:3-5)

Dr. Jim Cecy

Introduction:

Our piece of planetary real estate is so small. Our calling to reach out to the entire planet is quite substantial.

Acts 1:8 "...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

1. As a local church, we gather for edification — to build each other up in the faith (1 Cor. 14:12, 26; Eph. 4:12)
2. As a local church, we scatter for evangelism — to spread the good news of the gospel to others (2 Cor. 5:20)

Centripetal Force = "Come" = Edification vs. Centrifugal Force = "Go" = Evangelization

Becoming a global church filled with global Christians begins with a journey of the heart.

Colossians 4:3-5 "...praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity."

The Seven Principles on How to Become a Global Church

Principle #1. To become a global church we must join with others in being devoted to prayer.

Colossians 4:3 "...praying (together) at the same time for us as well..."

Ephesians 6:19 "...pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel..."

"Lord, where do you want us to go?"

Improving our Communication with God

1. By being devoted to prayer — persevering *continually* in it.
2. By being alert in prayer — staying *continually* awake to the needs of the world.
3. By being thankful in prayer — praising God *continually* for His work even before we see the doors of opportunity open.
4. By practicing intercessory prayer — praying *continually* for other churches, ministries and individuals serving the Lord all over the world.

A global Christian must be a praying Christian. A global church must be a praying church.

Principle #2. To become a global church we must be willing to go anywhere God leads.

Colossians 4:3 "...that God may open up to us a door for the word..."

God opens and closes doors ...

Acts 16:6-7 "They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them..."

2 Corinthians 2:12-14 "Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord, I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia. But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place."

"I would rather be in deepest, darkest Africa in the will of God than on the throne of England out of His will."

(Dr. David Livingstone)

Principle #3. To become a global church we must be willing to help proclaim the gospel (i.e. the mysteries) of Christ to unbelievers the world over.

Colossians 4:3 "...praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ..."

1 Thessalonians 1:8 "For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything."

1 Corinthians 4:1 “Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.”

Colossians 1:26-27 “...the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” “mystery” = hidden in the OT; revealed in the NT

1 Corinthians 2:7 “...we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom, which God predestined before the ages...”

The good news of the gospel is a mystery to people until God opens their hearts. We then need the boldness to speak.

Ephesians 6:19 “...pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel...”

Principle #4. To become a global church we must be willing to suffer while proclaiming the Gospel.

Colossians 4:3 “...praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned...”

God may be calling us to a testimony of suffering...

1 Corinthians 16:9 “...a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

“He is no fool who will give up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” (Jim Elliot)

2 Timothy 1:8-9 “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God...”

Principle #5. To become a global church we must be willing to learn more effective methods of communicating the gospel clearly to the outermost parts of the world.

Colossians 4:4 “...in order that I may make it clear (lit. visible, obvious) in the way I ought to speak.”

1 Corinthians 9:22 “To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.”

The core message of the gospel is changeless while the cultural methods of presenting the gospel constantly change.

Principle #6. To become a global church we must be committed to walking wisely before unbelievers.

Colossians 4:5 “Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders...”

Principle #7. To become a global church we must be committed to making the most of the opportunities God provides.

Colossians 4:5 “...making the most of the opportunity.”

Being Tactical = Engaging the Everyday Battles vs. Being Strategic = Understanding the Overall Campaign

Reason #1. Because we live in evil times (Eph. 5:15-16)

Reason #2. Because the world is still open to the Gospel (Jn. 4:35; Mt. 9:37-38)

We have been called “for such a time as this.”

Concluding Challenge: “Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.” (Bob Pierce)

Lord of the Harvest, I desire to become more of a global Christian this year than ever before. Therefore, I am willing . . .

- *to join with others in being even more devoted to prayer.*
- *to go anywhere Your Holy Spirit leads me to go.*
- *to help even more in proclaiming the gospel (i.e. the mysteries) of Christ to unbelievers around the world.*
- *to suffer, if necessary, while proclaiming the Gospel.*
- *to learn even more effective methods of communicating the gospel clearly.*
- *to walk more wisely before unbelievers.*
- *to make the most of the opportunities You clearly provide.*

Heavenly Father, may my heart be even more broken by the things that break your heart. In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

The Purpose of Growth Groups

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Rom. 8:29 & Heb. 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen.

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first, this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous Sunday's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Eph. 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's kingdom.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 20, 2013

SERMON SERIES: COLOSSIANS
Message Title: "A Global Church"

Dr. Jim Cecy
January 20, 2013

Welcome to the Winter Quarter of Growth Groups!

During your first meeting you will spend time getting acquainted and going over the Growth Group Covenant together. The homework is shorter this week to give you ample time for this. We pray that over the next ten weeks you make some great new friends, grow deeper in your faith, and begin caring for one another.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Would you rather...

- Dress casually or fancy?
- Live in the city or in the country?
- Watch a drama or a comedy?
- Have the power to fly or the power to disappear?

2. Who is your favorite Bible character? What character qualities attract you to this person? In what areas would you have to grow in order to become more like them?

Campus Bible Church

For more information about the Growth Group ministry @ Campus, visit www.campusbiblechurch.com/growthgroup or contact Pastor Kenton Rahn - kentonrahn@campusbiblechurch.com.

Sunday Messages and Notes:

Find at: www.campusbiblechurch.com/messages

Weekly Growth Group Homework:

Find at: www.campusbiblechurch.com/homework

Campus Bible Church Podcast:

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DIGGING DEEPER

Notes:

3. Read the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. What role do you see for yourself in fulfilling this commission?
4. In his own ministry Paul asks for prayer in Colossians 4:3-5. What are some of the issues mentioned in this request related to sharing the gospel?
5. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

TAKING IT HOME

6. Before going over the Growth Group Covenant, jot down some of the reasons you joined a Growth Group this quarter. What are you looking forward to the most?
7. Spend some time filling in the covenant together and discussing your group's goals, expectations and commitments.