

Layer 4: Grow in Our Love for Our Neighbors

While we remain on this planet, we have a job to do. The eternal Kingdom of God is our true home, but it's our responsibility to help the population grow. The Bible says that, *"In Christ, God is reconciling the world to Himself...and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."* (2 Corinthians 5:19) As hard as it is to believe, His plan is to impact the world *through us*.

The result of a healthy, mature life is multiplication. The goal of our life in Christ is to multiply His life in others. This means that we need to love people enough to share the Gospel with them and help them grow in Christ. After all, He commissioned us to *"Go...and make disciples..."* (Matthew 28:19)

Too many churches think that those outside the church are the enemies; that the goal of the church is to blow them out of the water, or at least to get as far away from them as possible. But Jesus never said to attack them, nor did He tell us to insulate ourselves from them. He commanded us to love them.

Jesus spent a lot of time on boats. If His church were a boat, what kind of boat would it be? Some think it is a cruise ship, where the needs and demands of tourists and vacationers get met through a variety of programs and a top-notch staff. Some think it is a battleship, where the goal is to fight back against those who try to sink us.

Here at Grace, we believe that it is most like a search-and-rescue boat. Jesus called us to be "fishers of men", and there are lots of people desperate and drowning out there.

Jesus is on a mission to seek and save that which is lost, and we get to be a part of that. Our job is to love those around us, and to meet them with care and compassion.

And, should the opportunity arise, with the Gospel.

Part 4: The Elements of Compassion

How can I make an eternal impact? Who is my neighbor? How do I start spiritual conversations with others? How can I disciple someone else?

Why Being Compassion Driven is Important:

Internal vs. External Motivation

Internal vs. External Ministry

The Church and Boats

Tips for the Search & Rescue Mission:

1) *Look*

- Notice your neighbor

2) *Listen*

- Honor their story

- Pay attention to spiritual cues

3) *Love*

- Be a blessing to them, *for their sake*

- Introduce them to Jesus

4) *PRAY!*

Pray & Watch-

The 5-Second Prayer:

*Father, send your Spirit to draw _____ to Jesus,
And make him/her a harvest worker.*

SCRIPTURES:

Sharing:

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 1:8

Acts 4:29-31

Acts 8:4

Romans 10:14-17

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

2 Corinthians 4

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Ephesians 1:13

2 Timothy 2:15

2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 Peter 3:15

Compassion:

Deuteronomy 10:17-22

Psalms 94

Isaiah 1

Isaiah 58

Jeremiah 29:7-14

Micah 6:6-15

Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 9:35-38

Luke 10:25-37

James 1:27

1 John 3:16-18

Discussion Questions:

1. What kind of boat does Grace Church identify as? Why?
2. Who are some people in your life that you need to start praying for their salvation?