

Can My Church Make a Difference?
Being a Radical Church in a Mediocre World

Things you have to realize before you can be radical...

1. **Other people exist** _____...there is a world, a community, a neighborhood, a school, a business, there are people outside of your church.
2. **Other people matter to God** _____...the church does not have a monopoly of God's affection. Luke 15—lost coin, lost sheep, lost son.
3. **If other people exist, and other people matter to God, they had better matter to us.**

1. Do people matter to God?

MT 18:12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³ And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, **he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.** ¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost."

God initiated reaching people. (Jn. 3:16-17, Mt. 18:14)

Prevenient G _____: God goes first!

Justifying G _____: God gives first!

Sanctifying G _____: If we grow, we will go!

2. People are a priority with God! (17; 2 Peter 3:9)

"We have met tonight to reach people. Every decision we make as a church will either help us in that cause or hinder us." Jamie Buckingham

So if we accept other people exist; other people matter to God; and other people should matter to us what is the strategy? What is the plan? How do we move from being sitting people to being SENT people?

3. If other people exist and the matter to God they had better matter to us.

Luke 10 as a personal pattern to be radical.

Pattern for being a Radical Church

A. S_____ your neighbor.

- a. We hide in our churches and expect people to come to us.
- b. “Go” is not an option, it is a mandate.
- c. You will never know the needs of your community until you spend time in it.
- d. Brainstorm ways you can “see your neighbor?”
 - i. Volunteer in the local school
 - ii. Attend city council meetings.
 - iii. Show up at every community activity.
 - iv. Participate in community organizations outside of your comfort zone.

B. H_____ your neighbor.

- a. Get your hands dirty.
- b. Why did the priest and the Levite leave the man alone? They did not want to be defiled by him. Who is it in your community that is untouchable?

C. Make a commitment that is evidences of r_____.

- a. One-time events are great. Long-term commitments are better.
- b. The difference between a summer fling and a marriage.
- c. Start with a one-time effort. See if a relationship develops.
- d. Williford
 - i. Kids school supplies
 - ii. To bookbags for fifty kids
 - iii. To supporting teachers with \$3,000 in supplies over the last two years.
 - iv. To providing lunches and special items they need.
 - v. To backpack buddies feeding two dozen kids every weekend
 - vi. To...what’s next? We do not advertise it, we just do it. God gives the increase.

Your church can be radical, but it probably has to begin with you. Will you be radical?

“We cannot all do great things, but we call all do small things with great love.”

~Mother Theresa

For more information and missional ideas, please visit www.MartyCauley.org