

40 Days of Community Part 2 COMMISSIONED TO REACH OUT

Philippians 1:27-2:4 Outline sermon Rick Warren.

Today were going to talk about being Commissioned to reach out.

God wired us for relationship.

He said when he created us:

It is not good for man to be alone.

Its out of relationship that we find the fullness of life.

Oh their was a young man who was so in love with a beautiful girl.

One day she told him that the next day was her birthday.

He told her he would send her a bouquet of roses...

one rose for each year of her life.

That evening he called the local florist and ordered twenty-one roses and he ordered that they be delivered first thing the next morning.

As the florist was preparing the order,

he decided that since the young man was such a good customer,

he would put an extra dozen roses in the bouquet.

That poor young fellow never did find out why the girl was so angry.

Now you don't need a hundred friends,

But we do need 3 or 4,

the tragedy is most people today don't have a single intimate friend.

We've got a lot of acquaintances

But do you have a mutual friend who says:

"I'm going to be there no matter what happens in your life."

That is why God sent Jesus

Because he has never made a person he didn't love and die for.

Jesus said: I have come to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10

And God wants every person to be a part of his family.

That's why were Commissioned to reach out.

Paul says in Philippians, 1:27,30.

"You are standing together, side by side, with one strong purpose to tell the good news ... You've been my partners in spreading the good news about Christ." LB Philippians 1:27,30

Lets look at what it means to partner together to reach out to win the world.

I. P in partner stands for PRAY TOGETHER.

Jesus said:

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Luke 10:2

Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth reapers.

If we want to win the world we began by praying.

Prayer can melt a hard heart,

warm a cold heart.
 activate an apathetic heart
 and arouse an inactive heart,
 change a stubborn heart.
 And it can create a new heart in Christ.
 Pray.
 (((I love this picture: Boy and Dog praying.)))

People can reject our argument, refuse our logic,
 But they are powerless against our prayers.
 Prayer goes straight to their heart.

A daughter from south sea island shared that her mother had

Just passed away on Tuesday June 20th of 2000.
 But she said: it gives me immense joy to also inform you that on June 13th 2000,
 Just seven days before, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and is now
 resting in eternal peace and glory. It is really awesome that at the age of 82, she gave up
 her pagan worship to fire gods and accepted the Living God. She died of cancer of the
 stomach but she had no pain, and is now in heaven with Jesus. We never ceased to pray
 for her.

The power of prayer can change our hearts
 And make us aware of their needs so we can
 Love them into the kingdom.

Colossians 3:4, "Pray for us that God will give us the opportunity to tell people His message." CEV

The P in Partner is – PRAY, the A IN PARTNER IS

II. APPEAL TO COMMON INTERESTS

Before you can reach you must relate to people.
 You must establish a relationship with them.
 Just what kind of a relationship do you have with people with your spouse?

There was a retiring farmer who needed to get rid of his farm animals.

So he went to every house in his town and to the house where the man is the boss, he
 gave a horse. To the houses where the woman is the boss, he gave a chicken.
 He got to the end of the street and saw a couple outside gardening.
 He said: "Who's the boss around here?"
 the man said: "I am."
 the Farmer said: "I have a black horse and a brown horse, which one would you like?"
 The man "The black one."
 His wife said: "No, no, get the brown one."
 The farmer said: "Here's your chicken."

What kind of relationship do we have with our lost friends?
 What interest do we have in common?

What needs or hurts,
 What hobbies or recreations?
 Do we like to fish? golf? cook? shop?
 sleep? have kids? soccer, baseball or basketball or whatever?'

Find that common interest that common appeal
and then began to pray together as a group

the R in partner is:

III. REACH OUT IN LOVE.

Jesus said, Lord your neighbor as yourself Matthew 22:39

Someone might say: Why bother with reaching the community,
 When we have over 1000 members in our church
 Lets just love and pray for them so we become warmer and stronger.
 We should do that.
 But we reach out to the lost because.

First: Jesus commanded us:

He said: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel." Mark 16:15

We have the greatest news in the world to share.
 And we are commanded to share it in love with one another.

John 13:34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

If you don't love others,
 it's real simple.

You don't have God in your life.

You may think you do, but you don't because the Bible says

I John 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

What's sad is that most church people are knows as judges and not lovers.
 Don't expect an unbeliever to act like a believer until he is one.
 Besides they can't.
 They don't have the power to change.

Before you became a Christian remember that habit?

That language, or addiction you needed changing?

No matter how hard you tried.

You didn't change and you couldn't because you had not power.

Only Christ can do that.

Did you hear about the man driving to work on the freeway.

Looked over and saw a woman in a Mustang doing

65 miles per hour with her face up next to her rear view mirror
 putting on her eyeliner! He thought what a loser.

He looked away for a couple seconds and when he looked back

Her car was halfway over in his lane.
 He said: "It scared me so bad I dropped my electric shaver in my coffee,
 and it spilled all over my cell phone in my lap!

Do people know you more for what you are against.
 Then what you are for?
 Love one another.

SECOND: We share because of a heart of gratitude.

If God never did another thing for me,
 I still owe him my life.

Ephesians 1: 7-8 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

I owe him everything.
 We share out of a heart of gratitude.

The T in PARTNER IS
IV. TELL YOUR STORY.

First Peter 2:9, "You are God's instruments to do His work and to speak out for Him and to tell others of the night and day difference that He has made for you."

You may not be an expert on a lot of things,
 But you're an expert on your story,
 Because you know what God has done in your life.
 And people want to hear your story.
 Not ½ hour version, but the two or three minute version.

Jesus said, "You're to be my witnesses."
 Not preachers.
 Not attorneys.
 Not the judges.
 Just the witness.
 That says:
 "Here's what I've seen. Here's what I've heard."
 Here's what God has done for me in Christ.

The best way to get into telling your story is
 To Remember the problems that Jesus has helped you with,
 When you hear people talk about that problem.

You can say:
"Look, God helped me with that. Maybe he can help you too."
 But be careful.

Their was a young mother panicked when her toddler swallowing a magnet. She rushed him to the emergency room. The Doctor said: "He'll be fine, the magnet should pass through his system in a day or two." "How will I be sure?" she pressed. "Well," the

doctor suggested, "you could stick him on the refrigerator. When he falls off, you'll know.

Be careful that your solution to the problem is real.

The world can spot a phony a mile away.

Write out your story, and share it with your group.

The Psalmist says: **Psalm 66:16** *"Listen and I'll tell you what God has done for me."*

The N in Partner is:

V. NURTURE FRIENDSHIPS.

Romans 12:3 *"Be friendly with everybody. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people."* LB

You don't build friendship overnight.

But in these 40 Days, bring somebody who is not yet a follower of Christ.

Maybe they're considering it, maybe not.

But invite them anyway to your group.

Now you might say:

"Well I don't have any friends who would like to come to my Bible study group."

Recent Gallup pole took a survey and found 34 million American said

"I'd go to church. I've just never been asked."

Wouldn't you think that maybe one of those 34 Million

May live just around the block, or work in the next office, or be in the same house.

And they are probably far more willing to come to a small group than you are willing to ask them.

Love and laugh them into the kingdom.

N IS FOR NUTURE.

E in Partner is:

VI. EXPECT GOD TO ACT.

I don't know if you realize this,

but God works in people's hearts when you expect him to do so.

Jesus said: TO THE CENTURIAN

Matthew 9:29 *Be it unto you according to your faith,*

Charles Spurgeon was one of the great pastors of the largest church of the 19th century in London England. And spoke at times to 10,000 people. And many people came to know Christ. One day, a young man said, **"Mr. Spurgeon, I don't understand it. Whenever you talk to people about the Lord, they always tend to open up their lives and they tend to accept Christ."** He said, **"But you know, when I talk to people about the Lord," he said, "Nobody's interested. Nobody comes to Christ. What's wrong?"** Spurgeon says, "Well young man, you don't expect people to come to Jesus Christ every time you talk about him, do you?"

He said, "Well of course not." He said, "That's your problem."

Are you expecting God to answer your prayers?

God has a will for your life,

and the devil has a will for your life,

Its your choice: Jesus said : **According to your faith it will be done unto you.**

Give people the information and then let them have time to make a right decision.

I believe they will over time.

The Bible says this in Hebrews 11:1, "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

The R in Partner is:

VII REPRESENT CHRIST WITH YOUR LIFE.

I Corinthians 10:31 "*Whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus.*"

Remember as a Christian we are always in a teaching mode.

And all we do will show and tell that we are Christians.

A farmer's son was returning from the market with the crate of chicken's his father had entrusted to him, when all of a sudden the box fell and broke open.

Chickens scurried off in different directions, but the determined boy walked all over the neighborhood scooping up the wayward birds and returning them to the repaired crate.

Hoping he had found them all, the boy reluctantly returned home, expecting the worst.

"Pa, the chickens got loose," the boy confessed, "but I managed to find all twelve of them." "the farmer said: "Well, you did real good, son, You left with seven."

Friend we need integrity both in our word and actions.

We need to live it in your life,

and share it with your mouth.

First Thessalonians 4: 11-12cev **Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.**

God specifically puts people in your life,

Because you are God's representative to them.

He put you there to share your love with them.

How will the people know unless we tell them?

The most dangerous prayer you can pray for these next 40 days is:

IS TO PRAY LIKE A CHILD: "**God, use me.**

Pray it when you get up. God Use me.

Pray it when you go to work, God use me.

When you come home. God use me.
Use me to show your love and purpose to people
And then be willing to let God use you.
And watch what happens in the conversations and contacts these 40 days.

God has given this church a heart to change the world.
But it starts in with each of us.
In our own hearts
In our small groups.
With those whom we know and we love,
and they are not going to know unless we show and tell them.

Father, you have given us a mission in the world to share your good news and your love with other people. Thank you that we don't have to do it alone. Thank you that as we share, you're going to give us your words and your love for others. And I pray that you will raise up an army with a heart to change the world.