

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are Good News People

May 31, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**

- **Introduction.**

We live in an age of Christian celebrity, applauding those successful in ministry. Yet, it's Jesus and His love and power who does everything in and through us. He should be the One receiving the glory.

We should be honoring Christ-followers who are allowing Christ to transform them into "Good News People"...people who are living upward, inward, outward lives...sharing His love and grace through their lives.

Karen Poenisch is such a person. She worked with Vicki Gray and impacted her with His love.

Karen introduced Vicki to Jesus. How?

She did three things: Prayer, care and share.

She prayed for Vicki.

She cared for Vicki.

She shared the Gospel—the Good News—with Vicki.

As a result Vicki's life started transforming...she began reading the Bible. Her life started changing.

Vicki came to Christ before Pastor Derwin because of Karen's love for Christ and for Vicki.

- Who are you praying for, caring for, and sharing your faith with them?

- If the Good News of what Christ has done for us is so good, so glorious...how can we keep it to ourselves?

- **Read Romans 9:1-5.**

- Your ethnicity, gender, age, social status, or education defines who you are...your identity.

In Romans 9 – 11 Paul states your identity is in Christ whether you are Jew or Gentile. You get to join Jesus on His mission, to be a "Good News" person, praying, caring and sharing His Good News with others.

- **Do you hurt for people who don't know Jesus?**

- **Read and discuss Romans 9:1-3.**

- Pastor Derwin absolutely hates cancer.

- o What would you do if you had a cure for cancer?

- o Would you keep it to yourself or would you relentlessly pursue people and give them the cure?

- As Christ followers, you have the cure for the worst cancer ever—sin, death and evil.

- o Are you giving it away...the Good News?

- o Do you pray more for God to meet your material needs than for others to come to Jesus?

- o Do you pray, God, use me to reach people who don't know you?

- Paul's heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief for those without Christ.

- The Good News transforms you, conforms you into the image of Christ.

- o How does the Good News transform you in your daily activities?

- o Who are you hurting for today?

- o Take time to mention the names of folks you're hurting for and ask God to provide opportunities—and for you to take the opportunities to pray, care, and share the Good News with them.

- **Have you gotten over your conversion?**
- **Read and discuss Philippians 3:5-6a, Acts 26:9-11, and Philippians 3:7-9.**
- Discuss Paul's life and conversion story.
- Share your conversion story.
 - Why is every salvation a beautiful story of God's redemptive love and grace?
 - Why should every Christ-follower look at their conversion as a miracle?

- Paul considered everything worthless—"worth-less" because of what Christ has done.
 - What did you build your identity and life on before Christ?
 - What do you consider "worth-less" because of what Christ has done in your life? (HINT: kids, job, home, spouse, sports, education)
 - Discuss the following statement, "You don't live from the outside in...you're transformed from the inside out".

- In His compassion for you, Jesus lived the perfect life you couldn't live so that you can experience God's perfect love. He went to the cross so there is no condemnation in Him. He came alive again so that He can live in and through you.
 - How often do you think about what Christ has done...not about what you have or haven't done?
 - Discuss the impact on your life when you realize that everything the Father thinks about Christ is true of you. How does it change the way you look at who you are? (HINT: Union life in Christ)

- **Will you join Jesus in building a Good News Church?**
- **Read and discuss Acts 26:15-18.**
- God took Paul and transformed him from a racist into a gracist.
 - Who are you being a "Good News" person to in your life?
 - Is there someone in your life that God is asking you to move from being a "racist" to being a "gracist"?

- **Read and discuss Ephesians 2:14-16.**
- For Christ Himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.
- Jesus united people through the sacrifice of His own life on the cross.
- He created a new people.
 - Discuss the following statement, "The multi-ethnic church is the hope for our world today".
 - Discuss the salad illustration.
 - Why is what we're doing as Transformation Church so important for our world and the kingdom of God?

- **Soul-tattoo: Be a missionary. Invite lost people to experience Jesus at our weekend services.**
 - Prayer, care, share...and then invite.
 - The church is not a cruise ship...it's a battleship and our weapons are faith, hope, and love.

- **Close in prayer.**