

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are Missionaries

June 21, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction.**
- In light of the shootings that resulted in the loss of nine lives at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, today is a day filled with sadness and heaviness. As we pray for the families and for Emanuel, let's pray for God's love, forgiveness, and power to be shown in such a way that the world sees a more beautiful way to be human through Christ living in and through His people in the midst of grief and loss.
- Now more than ever, it's time for us to be who God has called us to be—a multi-ethnic, multi-generational, mission shaped community that loves God completely (Upward), ourselves correctly (Inward), and our neighbors compassionately (Outward).
- How sad that the most segregated institution in America is the church. Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:14-16 that as Christ-followers, we are a new people, a new race. We are a multi-colored, multi-cultural family who reflects God's glory through His story in our lives.
- Pray that throughout Charlotte, Indian Land, Rock Hill, and surrounding areas that we will see more Transformation Churches that share God's love by imaging Him and His overwhelming love to a broken world.
- **Read Romans 10:11-15.**
- **You're a Missionary because you called on the name of the Lord.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 10:11-13.**
- Before you and I ever called Jesus, He called us. Before time began, Jesus was on His way for you.
- We all want to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.
- Evangelism is a dance of love where you move to the rhythm of God's grace.
 - What does it look like for you to be a missionary—on mission—at work, school, where you live and play?
 - Discuss the following statement, "Whatever you're most satisfied in is what you want others to be satisfied in as well". (Examples: Jesus, technology devices, latest tv show, sports team)
 - Who are the folks in your life that you can be salt and life to on a regular basis? (Including your "Greeks"—the ones you're less likely to be around.)
- **You are a Missionary because you have the riches of the Lord.**
- **You are loved.**
- The ultimate act of unconditional love is found in Jesus Christ and the bloody cross and the empty tomb.
- Everyone wants to be loved, honored, and recognized.
- People are looking for someone, something to complete them. We know that only Jesus completes us.
 - Who or what have you looked at "to complete you" other than Jesus?
 - What happens to love built on performance?
 - How does focusing "Upward" on God's love and His riches change the way you look at yourself (Inward) and others (Outward)?
- **You are declared righteous—justified.**
- You are declared righteous based on what Jesus Christ has done.
 - What does it mean to move this truth from your head to your heart?
 - How does recognizing you are declared righteous because of what Christ has done stop you from living a performance-based life?

- **You are the dwelling place (temple) of the Holy Spirit.**
- The Spirit of God is in you—He lives in you and wants to live through you.
- He will transform you, strengthen you, and lead you.
- The scene of the crime is your mind...when you focus on the power of the Holy Spirit He will transform your mind.
 - o Discuss how this statement can transform the way you live, “the same power that resurrected Jesus from the dead abides in you”.
 - o The scene of the crime is your mind...what areas of life do you need to allow the Holy Spirit to transform your mind (your way of thinking)?

- **How will they hear if you’re not joining Jesus on His mission?**
- **Read and discuss Romans 10:14.**
- Preaching means you are living out a life that invites others to Christ.
- Jesus died publicly for you, don’t be afraid to live publicly for Him.
 - o What does it look like for you to “preach the gospel” in your life setting? (HINT: Upward, Inward, Outward)

- **Will you let Jesus give you beautiful feet?**
- **Read and discuss Romans 10:15.**
- Paul is quoting Isaiah in this scripture.
- Preaching is a conversation, a relationship, communicating with others how Jesus has transformed your life.
- There are different people in life that you are called to reach.
- A messy culture needs “beautiful feet”—local churches that show God’s family, a multi-colored, multi-cultural family, together with one voice glorifying God. (Romans 15:6-7)
 - o As you looked at the different shoes, who are some of the people (your mission field) God is giving you an opportunity to reach with His love?
 - o What things are you passionate about?
 - o Is your passion for folks to hear and experience the Gospel greater than that passion?
 - o Discuss the following statement, “Great accomplishment takes great sacrifice, great faith, and great unity to see God do great things in and through His people”.
 - o As we partner together, what can you do to see our auditorium filled with people who need to hear about God’s overwhelming love and grace? (HINT: TEAM—Together Everyone Achieves More)
 - o Discuss the following statement, “When are you going to put down your preferences and pick up your cross”? What preferences do you need to lay down?

- **Soul-tattoo: Start living out, “Prayer, Care, and Share”. (Invite)**

- **Close in prayer.**
- Pray that we continue to be a multi-ethnic, multi-generational, grace-filled, spirit-empowered church that expresses His love to others through praying for them, caring for them, and sharing the gospel with them as we live inviting lives.