

9

Being 'Church'

9. The Church is an outward looking community

Key idea

What did you think was the most important point made in the sermon on this topic?

Were there any issues raised in the sermon that you'd like to discuss further?

Clarifying the message

We are going to focus on Col 4:2-6. Take a brief moment to remind yourself what Paul has to say before and after these verses. Read out Col 4:2-6.

- How do you respond to the suggestion that these verses describe, 'evangelism for the rest of us'.
- According to this passage, what link does Paul see between Christian living, prayer and the proclamation of the gospel?
- How should we as 'church' relate to 'outsiders'? (see also Matt 25:35; 1 Pet 2:12; 1 Thess 4:11-12) Why?
- Can you think of some practical ways our church could live out this kind of relationship with outsiders.

Living the message today

We have been saying that all Christians, whether specifically gifted as evangelists or not, have a role in promoting the gospel. That is what we mean by the saying 'church is an outward-looking community'. Suggest practical ways of promoting the gospel in each of the following ways:

1. Having a missionary mind (cf Luke 10:2)
2. Praying (cf Col 4:2-4)
3. Using our money (cf Phil 4:14-19; Rom 15:23-24)
4. Doing things as a church
5. Christian behaviour (cf John 13:34-35, Matt 5:13)
6. Evangelists & the local church
7. public praise and thanksgiving
8. daily conversation (cf Col 4:6)

Name three characteristics of an inward-looking church. Name three characteristics of an outward-looking church.

Which of these practical ways of being 'outward-looking' can you implement this week? Report back next week on your progress.