

Church Outside the Four Walls

The church is the body of Christ - this analogy has to do with every member functioning in unique ways

- 1Pe 4:10-11 ESV As **each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace**: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies--in order that **in everything God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

There is something called good works that also glorify Him

- Mat 5:16 ESV In the same way, let your light shine before others, **so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

God has prepared beforehand good works ⇒ we should walk in them

- Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God **prepared beforehand**, that **we should walk in them.**

Mindset

What we do to others we do to Jesus

- Mat 25:35-36 & 40 ESV For I was hungry and **you gave me food**, I was thirsty and **you gave me drink**, I was a stranger and **you welcomed me**, 36 I was naked and **you clothed me**, I was sick and **you visited me**, I was in prison and **you came to me.**'.....And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, **you did it to me.**'

Serve your way into a reputation (reputation = your life becomes your testimony)

- 1 Tim 5:10 ESV...**having a reputation for good works**: if she has **brought up children**, has **shown hospitality**, has **washed the feet of the saints**, has **cared for the afflicted**, and has **devoted herself to every good work**
- **Dorcas made tunics and garments** Act 9:36-39 ESV ...a disciple named Tabitha, or Dorcas died...She was **full of good works and acts of charity**...All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing **tunics** and other **garments** that Dorcas made while she was with them.

Find a need and fill it

- **Cup of cold water** Mat 10:42 ESV And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."
- **Aquila and Priscilla helped Paul with a job and get established** - Act 18:3 ESV3 and **because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.**
- **Good Samaritan** Luke 10:29 "Who is my neighbor?" → go and do likewise

Practical Steps

Prayer and a WILLING heart → Word of Knowledge, Working of Miracles or Healing - Paul was healed, baptized in water and filled with Holy Spirit

- Act 9:10-17 ESV Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 13 **But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine17** So Ananias departed and entered the house.

Take Someone Under Your Wing

- Act 9:27 ESV But Barnabas **took him and brought him** to the apostles

- Act 18:26 ESV [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but ***when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.***

A & P also opened their home for the church to gather (tents with Paul, disciples of Apollos)

- 1Co 16:19 ESV...Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.
- Rom 16:3-5 ESV Greet Prisca and Aquila.....5 Greet also the church in their house

NT Churches in Homes (Rome, Ephesus, Laodicea, Colossae, Jerusalem, Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth)

NT a vibrant community - created both inside the temple and outside in homes and community

- Act 2:44-47 ESV And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and **distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.** 46 And day by day, **attending the temple** together and **breaking bread** in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 **praising God** and having **favor with all the people.** And the **Lord added** to their number day by day **those who were being saved.**

Summarize

Attitude of Heart/Motivation

- **What we do to others we do to Jesus**
- **Serve your way into a reputation**
- **Find a need and fill it**

Practical Steps

- **Prayer and a willing heart**
- **Take Someone Under Your Wing**
- **Open your home for the church & community**

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- **Care Ministries in the church** - Becky Maley (caring will often happen outside the 4 walls)
- **Serve in a ministry that serves others**, clothed in righteousness, food pantry, habitat for humanity
- **Start a nursing home ministry, or hospital visitation or jail ministry**
- **Share the gospel prayer walking**
- **Be a good samaritan, offer a cup of cold water**, help someone find a job, make stuff for people