

TO BE THE MISSIONAL CHURCH

Consumer Christianity Versus the Big Cross

Reference: **Philippians 1:3-21**

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A. THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI

1. What was great about this church?
 - a. Christ-centered. (**Phil. 1:21**).
 - b. Partners with Paul. (**Phil. 1:3, 5**).
 - c. Great attitude. (**Phil. 4:10**).
 - d. Sent. (**Phil. 4:16**).
2. What barriers did Paul overcome to reach the Philippians?
 - a. Cross-cultural evangelism (Greeks).
 - b. No one to receive Him.
 - c. Arrested and imprisoned.
3. How is this church missional?
 - a. The gospel sent to them.
 - b. They sent the gospel to others. (**Phil. 2:15-16**).

B. CONSUMER CHRISTIANITY AND THE BIG CROSS

1. Too often Christians see themselves as a customer.
 - a. We want good service.
 - b. We want the best.
 - c. We want what we pay for.
 - d. We demand our rights.
 - e. We expect others to wait on us.
2. When we become the customer, we live self-focused lives.

The missional church preaches, *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* (**Gal. 2:20**).
3. The American church arises because of Hurricane Helena and other emergencies.
 - a. We recognize extreme needs.
 - b. But we should live in a constant state of emergency.
4. The shadow of the cross on us changes everything.
(**Luke 9:25**).
5. The church cannot be the church until it is willing to sacrifice for Christ. (**Rom. 12:1**).
6. Remember we are in the world, but not of the world.
(**John 17:14-16; Rom. 12:2**).

C. ATHENS: ACTS 17:16-34; 17:22-23, (CSB).

1. Use cultural understanding as a bridge to share the gospel.
2. It’s inappropriate to throw out culture to promote the gospel.
3. You can find bridges everywhere.
4. Get over the fear of culture and use it as a tool.
5. This does not mean everything in culture is good and should be embraced.
6. Paul didn’t ask people to come to him, he went to them.
7. Meet people’s needs where they are, and give them the choice to go further.
8. Opening conversation about Jesus. “If you were to die today, do you know where you would spend eternity?” or “If God should ask you, ‘Why should I let you into heaven,’ what would you say?”
 - a. 20% think about their eternal destiny daily, 13% weekly, 12% monthly, 44% never.
 - b. 33% think about life’s meaning and purpose daily, 17% weekly, 13% monthly, 10% yearly, 25% never—they just live day to day.
9. How did Jesus open conversations?
 - a. Water (**John 4:10**).
 - b. Light (**John 9:5**).
 - c. Bread (**John 6:27**).
10. What can we learn from Christ? (**2 Cor. 5:14-15**).
 - a. The driving force is love, not other reasons.
 - b. Build authentic relationships.
 - c. Don’t lose confidence in the gospel.
 - d. People are searching for more than fire insurance.
 - e. Being missional is not about trips or actions, it is a lifestyle.