

Connecting People to Jesus

Generally, it is awkward and unfamiliar for us to leave our circle of comfort.

We enjoy the safety of our family and friends who are non-threatening.

However, **leaving our *circle of comfort* is where Jesus can do His best work!**

Jesus was intentional in crossing over the social, the cultural and the religious barriers to engage with non-believers.
He was inclusive - not exclusive!

People who were nothing like Jesus ***liked*** Jesus and He ***liked*** them back.

Mark 2:13-17 Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to Him, and He began to teach them. *14:* As He walked along, He saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed Him.

15: While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Him and His disciples, for there were many who followed Him. 16: When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw Him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked His disciples "Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 17: On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Jesus spent the majority of His time pursuing non-religious people.

"The Son of man (Jesus) came to seek and save those who are lost." (Luke 19:10 nlt)

Jesus was indeed a 'friend' of sinners. His association with sinners irritated the religious leaders and they struggled to come to terms with Jesus' social engagement with sinners.

Jesus intentionally created relationships with outsiders - who were broken, ignorant and in need of acceptance.

What was true of Jesus individually should be true of us together.

We should intentionally pursue the transformation of the human heart of those distant from God, through Jesus' message of faith, hope and love.

The mission of the Church, is the same mission of Jesus,

“to seek and save those who are lost.” This is why we as a church are actively involved in world missions.

- World Missions is a ***vehicle and a means to passionately*** pursue the Great Commission by going into all the world and sharing the gospel to all people.

- World Missions gives us an ***opportunity to express God's love*** through a corporate body.
- World Missions brings the Local Church a ***strong sense of its ambassadorship*** for Christ.

We should spend time investing in people who are in desperate need of God's acceptance.

People genuinely feel accepted, through a genuine interest in them.

Jesus built a community of faith, which was inclusive and not exclusive, a community motivated by love, hope and faith.