

**A Pattern For Outreach**  
**Plan Your Work and Work Your Plan**

**1 Thessalonians 2:8**

**October 22, 2017**

I remember the first time I went to California with Veanna to see her home town and where she was raised. She was raised in Eagle Mountain California which was a mining town located deep in the Mohave Desert. As we drove through the desert we would occasionally cross over a bridge but there was no water anywhere to be found. I finally became curious and asked the question how come there are bridges in the middle of the desert. Of course I was laughed at but they told me that when it does rain even just a little bit it floods.

When the ground is completely dry the rain will not soak in right away but will run off. The same is with people who are so dry when it comes to their spirit that when we bombard them with the Gospel message it just runs off of them without soaking in!

Believers must develop a Pattern in which we can build a relationship with unbelievers so they are more prepared to hear The Gospel.

**We've all heard that old adage:** People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!

Unfortunately many Christians today are grumpy and bitter and when they ask someone to come to church with them it is not well received.

**In 1 Thessalonians 2:8** Paul gives us **A Pattern For Outreach!**

**1 Thessalonians 2:8** **We cared** so much for you that **we were pleased** to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become **dear to us**.

Today we will look at **Three Attitudes** we must develop and **Five Principles** we must embrace to **Equip** us reach people in our communities!

### **The First Attitude:**

I. You can **Cultivate** an **Affection** for Others! **(8a)**  
We **cared** so much for you

When you focus on peoples negatives their positives disappear.

Many times when you ask Christians to Think Positively they respond: **Whatever!** Remind them of the **Whatever verse in Philippians 4:8!**

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brothers, **whatever** is true, **whatever** is honorable, **whatever** is just, **whatever** is pure, **whatever** is lovely, **whatever** is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

### **The Second Attitude:**

II. **You can Develop an Anxiousness** to Share The Gospel with Others! **(8b)** that we were **pleased** to share with you not only **the gospel** of God but also **our own lives**

**Pleased** = Choose something Good, is ones good pleasure, My Pleasure. Something you want or desire to do! This is an action verb that has a sense of urgency to pursue **Relationship Evangelism!**

As Christians we need to have a sense of **Urgency!**

**Romans 13:11** Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to **wake from sleep**. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

In The Last Days Jesus warns The Church in **Revelation 3:2** **Wake up!** Strengthen what remains and is **about to die**, for I have found your deeds **unfinished** in the sight of my God.

When Jesus Returns **What will You be doing?**

**The Third Attitude:**

III. You can **Project** an **Admiration** for Others who are not always like you! **(8)** because you **had become dear** to us.

Now you don't have Admiration for them so as to be like they are! You have an Admiration for them for **who they could be in Christ!** Seeing past their issues, habits, situation, appearance, likes, dislikes, culture, political beliefs, and sinful desires! Will help you to get to know the real person they are and begin to see them how God sees them!

The Bible tells us that **all men have sinned**, and this sin causes us to fall short of God's glory (see **Romans 3:23**). Our sins have separated us from a

holy God in whom there is no sin or darkness (see **Isaiah 59:2; 1 John 1:5**). Because He is holy, righteous and just, He can't tolerate sin.

### **How should this help us?**

Dear Friends, the Bible tells us that Christ died for us while we were still sinners (see **Romans 5:8**). We must never forget that we were truly unlikeable in the eyes of God. Even if we were made in His image, sin made everyone ugly.

God, however, loves everyone. He wants all men to be saved (see **1 Timothy 2:4**), and when saved, to journey on the path to becoming like Christ (see **Romans 8:28-30**). No one is perfect, but God wants to bring to perfection all who believe (see **Philippians 3:12-14; Hebrews 6:1**).

Let's allow the love of Christ to motivate and empower us to reach out to those we really don't like. It's not about our preferences anyway; it's about Him who lived, died, and rose again.

**Dr. Alvin Reed** in his book *“Sharing Jesus Without Freaking Out”* says: *“Developing a lifestyle of sharing Jesus consistently flows out of a plan to share Jesus regularly.”*

Dr. Reed also shares **Five Principles** to help set you on a journey of sharing Jesus:

1. **Focus your life** on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - **Spiritually**: Daily Devotional

- **Physically**: Personally Sharing Jesus
- **Emotionally**: Praying for strength, guidance, discernment, opportunities.
- **Relationally**: Building a relationship with those God sends your way.
- **Financially**: Giving financially to your local church is an act of obedience and helps the local church provide for training and developing opportunities for Outreach.

**Have you ever wanted to put God to the test?**

**Malachi 3:10** Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house. **Test Me** in this way," says the LORD of Hosts. "See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.

**You might say**: Well I can't afford to give a tenth of my income. I say you can't afford not to!

**Peter Marshall** was former chaplain of the United States Senate. A man came to him with a concern about tithing. He said: "I have a problem. I have been tithing for some time. It wasn't too bad when I was making \$20,000 a year. I could afford to give the \$2,000. But you see, now I am making \$500,000 a year, and there is just no way I can afford to tithe \$50,000 a year." Dr. Marshall reflected on this wealthy man's dilemma but gave no advice. He simply said: "Yes, sir. I see that you do have a

problem. I think we ought to pray about it. Is that alright?" The man agreed. So Dr. Marshall bowed his head and prayed with boldness and authority, "Dear Lord, this man has a problem, and I pray that you will help him. Lord, reduce his salary back to the place where he can afford to tithe."

2. **Understanding the Factors** that help your personal witness.
  - Your **Giftedness**
  - Your **Calling**
  - Your Deep **Satisfaction**
3. **Identify in your Circle of Influence** those who don't know Jesus!
4. **Regularly** (*monthly, quarterly*) **stop to assess Your Plan** with your accountability partner or mentor.
5. **Pray Daily for your Witness** and for those to whom you will witness.

Everyone here has something they are passionate about!

Family, Sports, Politics, Movies, Music, TV Show, Finances, Cars, Hunting, Fishing, Fashion, just to name a few.

How do you know what your passion is?

It's what you talk about the most! Could even be yourself! **Whoa is me!**

**Praise Team Takes the Platform.**