

## ***Sermon Outline***

### **Bringing the Gospel Home:**

#### **Witnessing to Family Members, Close Friends, and Others Who Know You Well**

**Randy Newman – Colossians 4:2-6 – June 5, 2011**

#### **Introduction: Why Is Witnessing to Family So Difficult?**

- 1) The stakes are so high – God has valued the family (and so has the devil)
- 2) Emotions run so deep
- 3) The allegiances are so conflicted – family has a high allegiance, but God calls for higher allegiance to himself.

#### **Scripture: Colossians 4:2 -6**

##### **1. We live with the tension of prayer and proclamation.**

- a. We need to be watchful and thankful (it is a good idea to keep track of how God is answering prayer).
- b. We need to ask God to do what only God can do AND we need to open up our mouths in proclaiming the gospel.
- c. This is a liberating truth: evangelism is impossible; but God does the impossible, and he uses us in the process.

##### **2. We live with the tension of words and actions.**

- a. You may have heard the quip: preach the gospel; if necessary, use words. But this is wrong-headed. Words are necessary for the gospel to be clear and to make sense.
- b. People will not get the gospel merely from actions. They will not be able to connect the dots.

##### **3. We live with the tension of grace and salt.**

- a. The gospel is always bad news before good news.
- b. We need to be faithful to give both.

##### **4. We live with the tension of reception and rejection.**

- a. Some will accept, some will revile.
- b. We need to get comfortable with this and recognize it is the Lord's to determine.

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### **Witnessing To Family Takes T-L-C**

#### **1. Time**

- a. We need to ask God to make us patient.
- b. It is helpful to remind ourselves how patient God has been with us.

#### **2. Love**

- a. In the dynamic found in the family, love is often assumed, but not always expressed.
- b. We should ask what would really communicate love to (this person).
- c. Randy had to ask himself in regard to his son who was in the midst of rebellion, “how do I communicate love to him?”
- d. How do we express love to parents, children, siblings—and not just assume it.
- e. We who have received indescribable love from our heavenly Father ought to be able to find tangible ways to communicate love to our family.

#### **3. Comprehensive Faith**

- a. We need to find ways that the gospel changes how we do money, health, marriage, parenting, sports, etc.
- b. What are the topics that aren't off limits with our family?
- c. Show your family you are interested in talking about the topics they like to talk about.

### **Fellowship Starters**

- 1) Who are the unsaved members of your family that you need to continue to persevere in prayer for and to love?
- 2) Take some time to consider: what are some of the hindrances that have kept you from faithfully or effectively communicating the gospel to your unsaved family members? Discuss ways to overcome these hindrances.
- 3) Randy went over four tensions that we typically experience in doing evangelism. What tension do you most struggle with? What Scriptures speak to this tension? How ought we to deal with the tension?
- 4) Randy mentioned that in some families love is assumed, but not necessarily expressed. Would that be true in your family? Has there been an assumption of love? What are

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some ways that you can clearly communicate love to members of your family, particularly the ones that are struggling?