

Dave Emery is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Intentional Authentic Evangelism Gathering
Time: Feb 28, 2021 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

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If you are able to attend the gathering this Sunday at 3pm to discuss this and respond to these questions, please note the Zoom invitation to this event.

If you are unable to attend, please send your responses to office@aberdeenpres.org or mail it to the office at 420 N Broadway, Aberdeen WA 98520.

May God Richly Bless You This Week and Always!

Pastor Dave
360-593-9033

Intentional Authentic Evangelism

What we do is not haphazard. We don't just fall into a discussion about God and share our faith. This can and does happen. It is great when it occurs.

It can occur for many reasons. Reasons like a fellow worker going through a rough time and looking for support and care. Someone sees how you live and sees how it is different and asks: why? Or a neighbor trying to belong and finding themselves to be cut off and alone.

All these and more are great opportunities to talk about the love of God and the fellowship of believers that make a difference in your life.

However, what we are talking about this week is being intentional about sharing the good news of the gospel even when others haven't initiated the conversation.

Last week we talked about Lifetime Discipleship Formation.

We spoke about this as a vital sign of the church because we must have experienced the love of God and been in relationship with God first and foremost. At last week's gathering someone shared how they read the Bible through that spoke to them. How the fellowship of believers were a powerful help in tough times. How the love of God has made their lives different than those who do not believe.

I have always believed that if we have something really important in our lives, we are eager to share this with family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. It is out of our caring for them that we want to intentionally share the love of God and the blessing of the body of Christ, the church.

We don't do this to get more people into church. Although, this can be a real resource to a new Christian's faith. We do this because it means so much to us.

Someone shared with me recently about a great restaurant to go to. I was happy to hear about a new place to try. I am looking forward to trying it out sometime soon.

This was an easy and welcome conversation because they were sharing from their experience and joy in the place they enjoyed. They don't have anything to gain

from this. They had no benefit from sharing this, except the desire to help us find a good place to eat.

This is what Intentional Authentic Evangelism is all about. Sharing with others the real experience of our relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This desire to want others to be invited to this amazing part of life. This intentional joyful and meaningful activity that welcomes others to the love of God.

It has been said:

“God will save whomever He chooses to save. The Christian should proselytize not because he thinks he can change everybody; he should proselytize because the Gospel being shared is the ultimate act of love: because he thinks he can love everybody.” —Criss Jami, *Healology*

Criss Jami is an American poet, essayist, musician, singer, designer, and lyricist.

In reflection then:

- How could what Jami says shape our evangelism, that sharing the gospel is the ultimate act of love?

- Is evangelism about changing people? If not, if our goal is to rather share love how are we then to witness to the truth of the Gospel?

Further I have heard it said:

[The Bible] “has to be interpreted. And if it isn’t interpreted, then it can’t be put into action. So, if we are serious about following God, then we have to interpret the Bible. It is not possible to simply do what the Bible says. We must first make decisions about what it means at this time, in this place, for these people.” —Rob Bell, *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith*

Rob Bell is the author of ten books, including the New York Times Bestsellers *What We Talk About When We Talk About God*, *The Zimzum of Love*, *Love Wins* and *What Is the Bible?*. His podcast, called the RobCast, was named by iTunes Best of 2015. He’s been profiled in the *New Yorker*, toured with Oprah, and in 2011 *Time Magazine* named him one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

In Reflection then,

- How do you interpret the Bible? And do you see your interpretation as foundational to your evangelism?

- Is what you read in scripture good news? What does the good news mean for our time and our people?

- Are there ways to speak truth and good news that point others to the Word of God? How do we do this?

Finally, we must be in relationship to others before we are able to share what is on our hearts. This is especially true if we know someone. If we know what they like, who they care about and what their interests are.

We find a point of connection. We find a way of letting them know what we care about, what is important to us, what has made a difference in our lives.

In reflection then:

- Is it easy or hard to bring up your faith journey? How might this be even easier?

- What might we say to start this conversation? We don't have to share it all at one time. So, in what ways might we express the importance of faith in our lives?