

Radiant Church, July 26, 2015
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Gospel Rhythms
#3 Blessed to Be a Blessing

How do we come to see all of life as mission?

1 Corinthians 10:31 *so whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*

Colossians 3:16-17 *let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thanksgiving, with all thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

If we were to live out all of our rhythms of life in light of the gospel, what would be different?

Genesis 12:1-3 *now the Lord said to Abram, Go from your country, and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*

The word "Bless" or "Blessed" is overused in our culture

"I'm so blessed"

What constitutes a blessing? What is the source of blessing?

"Have a blessed day!"

The fact I'm breathing means I'm already having a blessed day!

Bless...we intentionally bless others through words, gifts or actions

Ephesians 1:22-23 *and He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Ephesians 2:8-10 *for by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

1 Peter 2:12 *keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good works and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

God desires that all people would be blessed through Jesus. And now, as His Body, the Church, we believe that we live out this mission as we bless others. We intentionally seek out God's direction for who he would have us tangibly bless each week.

James 4:1-6 What causes quarrels and who causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us? But He gives more grace. Therefore it says, God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Two immediate objections come up when we think of blessing someone else:

1. We all have talents, resources and time. Some of us may **believe we have earned these things and are therefore entitled to them**. This leads to greed and selfishness stemming from pride and causes fights, quarrels, divisions and anxiety.

2. You know when it's the hardest time for us to bless someone? **When we don't like them, appreciate them, or have been hurt by them**

Romans 12:14 *bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.*

1 Corinthians 4:12 *...when reviled, we bless...*

Blessing someone is not done out of the excess of what we are, feel or have. Blessing someone means taking on the role of a servant, under submission to our Master. Blessing someone is an act of obedience.

You can't even think of blessing other people if you are legalistic in how you view other people.

4 signs you might be a legalist:

- A. Your spiritual disciplines might define your spirituality
- B. You separate your spiritual life from the rest of your life
- C. You only hang out with 'saved' people
- D. You live in constant condemnation for your mistakes

Your feelings don't define you; Christ's work defines you!

Blessing someone else means we take our eyes off of ourselves

It's easy to say, "Bless you." It involves us more when we actually have to do something to see that other person be blessed in the name of Jesus.

Luke 18:29-30 and he said to them, Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life.

When we choose to believe that all we have is from God's gracious hand - gifts received and not due to our own accomplishments - then we selflessly share what we have for the sake of others leading us to acts of service, sacrifice and love.

...blessed by God

Like Abraham, we have been blessed. We have received unmerited favor and provision. This is not because of anything we have done, but because of all God has done for us in Jesus Christ. We are co-heirs with Christ, and blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms.

How has God blessed you in Jesus?

...to be a blessing

We are not blessed just for our own good. We have been given what we have so that others might also receive. We must regularly take account of what has been given to us and realize that is not ours, but God's to steward. Then, in light of the gospel that reminds us that He became poor so that in His poverty we might become rich, we are freed up to pour out our lives and things so that others might be blessed and taste and see that the Lord is good.

What has God given you that you can bless other people with?

...each other

When I believe the gospel and realize that I didn't gain what I have not do I really own what I have, I then see that our Father in heaven provides for His children through sharing what we have been given with each other. I don't own anything but I have everything. All that we have is God's, and all that is God's is ours.

...our culture and community

God's intent in blessing His people has always been so that those who do not know Him and His grace would see Him at work in and through us and come to Him through our lives. We learn to direct our eyes outward and begin to

believe He has given us everything for life and godliness. He has resourced us with everything we need to do the gospel work of blessing other people who do not know Him yet.

What does our culture/community really need?

How has God uniquely blessed us to display the grace of the gospel to them?

We're going to learn how to effectively bless someone when we learn their story. And then when we know the story of God...our family story...we can bless them with the good news of Jesus, how their story can be redeemed and made right because of Who God is and what He's done in Christ for all of us who believe.

Blessing each other; blessing people who do not yet know Jesus and Savior and Lord, over time, gives us the right and the opportunity to share God's story...the story of God's greatest blessing to His creation...Jesus!

Lord's Table

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 the cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.