

TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Sermon Notes

March 18, 2007

Speaker: Dr. Bill Patterson,

Pastor of World Missions, Social Concerns & Adult Communities

Daily Devotional: Verses for meditation and application.

Sunday: Love, the distinctive characteristic	John 13:34-35
Monday: Obedience, the consequence of love.	John 14:15
Tuesday: Fruit of the Christian life (What we are to be about)	John 15:15-17
Wednesday: Love extends to our enemies	Matthew 5:43-48
Thursday: You are called to be minister of reconciliation	2 Cor.5:11-21
Friday: People need to hear about Jesus – you can do it	Romans 10:14-15
Saturday: We share one commission	Matthew 28:18-20

Scripture memory for the Week:

John 13:34-35

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

“For the Sake of One”

Luke 10:25-37

THEME: At the core of the modern mission’s movement are churches dedicated to helping prepare people to minister cross-culturally. What does a church look like that produces people willing to serve cross-culturally? Today we see that this is a church that: 1) loves God 2) serves others & 3) is obedient to God’s heart.

For the Sake of One God:

For the Sake of One Love:

For the Sake of One Neighbor:

For the Sake of One Commission. Matthew 28:18-20

Relearning the Cross ~ Christopher J.H. Wright, *An Upside Down World*

We need to go back to the Cross and relearn its comprehensive glory. For if we persist in a narrow, individualistic view of the Cross as a personal exit strategy to heaven, we fall short of its biblical connection to the mission purpose of God for the whole of creation (Colossians 1:20) and thereby lose the Cross-centered core of holistic mission.

Christianity Today, January 2007

Small Group Questions

Opener:

What has required the greatest preparation in your life?
What did that preparation involve?

For the Sake of One God:

How does your commitment to God make a difference in the way you think and behave?

For the Sake of One Love:

How can I (we) better promote a climate of "love stories" here at First Free?

What might I (we) do to promote contact ministries with our community such as: Affirm (military), Tutoring club (after school), Alpha Team (compassion response & outreach), Habitat for Humanity (building a home to help a family), and other outreach opportunities?

For the Sake of One Neighbor:

A neighbor is a person who has a need and you have the ability to meet that need.

Can you identify one person who you might be able to help?

Who would it be and what would need to be done?
It is unrealistic to think that 5,000 miles and an airline ticket will suddenly enables a person to effectively share Jesus in

another culture and language. How does a church's behavior in ministering to its neighbors help prepare people to minister cross-culturally?

Which of my *neighbors* do I need to invite to church with me next weekend?

For the Sake of One Commission Matthew 28:18-20

How can I better pray for those ministering overseas? (Midweek and adult communities receive weekly updates on missionaries. There are also regular updates on the persecuted church.)

In the month of February 2007 giving to missions at First Free totaled \$24,335.93 while our actual expenses were \$38,036.70. This left a short-fall of \$13,700.77. How can I improve my giving to missions at First Free and better participate with those serving for God's glory overseas?

What opportunities are available to me to go overseas to minister? (This might include a short-term trip of several weeks to two years. Talk with Pastor Bill to find out the trips going this summer.)