

FOR *our communities*

We live in a world where everyone is known for what they are against. This is even more so true of the church. As a result, people want nothing to do with God or the church. But what if we changed that narrative? What if people knew us as individuals and a church as being radically for them? This is our challenge: to be *for* people and *for* our communities.

1. What do you want to be known for?
2. Who in your life has been for you? Explain.
3. Read the following verses. How do these passages give insight on how we can be for people and communities? Be specific.

Matthew 5:13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

1 Corinthians 5:12a It isn’t my responsibility to judge outsiders...

Colossians 4:6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

4. Jesus and his followers were “for” people in four distinct ways. Which one of these is the hardest for you? Explain.

They leaned relationally in the direction of those they disagreed with

They were not afraid of guilt by association

They didn’t judge non-Christians for behaving like non-Christians

They refused to be drawn into non-productive debates and discussion

5. What is one specific thing you can do this week to show someone in your life that you are *for* them?