

CHRISTIANS ARE MISSIONARIES

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Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
(Matthew 28:16-20)

Joh 17:11 I will remain in the world no longer, **but they are still in the world**, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—

I have given them your word and the world has hated them, **for they are not of the world** any more than I am of the world.
(John 17:14)

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. *They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. **As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.*** For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.
(John 17:15-19)

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— (10) **not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.** (11) But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. (12) What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? (13) God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

(Colossians 4:5) **Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.**

(1 Thessalonians 2:8) **We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.**

(1 Thessalonians 4:12) **so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders** and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

(1 Timothy 3:7) He must also have a good reputation **with outsiders**, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

8 Ways to be Missional (without overloading your schedule)

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by Jonathan Dodson

Missional is not an event we tack onto our already busy lives. It is our life. Mission should be the way we live, not something we add onto life: “As you go, make disciples....”; “Walk wisely towards outsiders”; “Let your speech always be seasoned with salt”; “be prepared to give a defense for your hope”. We can be missional in everyday ways without even overloading our schedules. Here are a few suggestions:

1. **Eat with Non-Christians.** We all eat three meals a day. Why not make a habit of sharing one of those meals with a non-Christian or with a family of non-Christians? Go to lunch with a co-worker, not by yourself. Invite the neighbors over for family dinner. If it's too much work to cook a big dinner, just order pizza and put the focus on conversation. When you go out for a meal, invite a non-Christian friend. Or take your family to family-style restaurants where you can sit at the table with strangers and strike up conversations (Krueger's, The Tap, Friendly's, Tacos Lupita etc.). Have cookouts and invite Christians and non-Christians. *Flee the exclusive subculture.*
2. **Walk, Don't Drive.** If you live in a walkable area, make a practice of getting out and walking your neighborhood, apartment complex, campus. Instead of driving to check the mail, go to the convenience store, or visit a neighbor, get out and walk. Say hi to people you don't know. Walk the dog. Bring the kids. Make friends. Get out of the house when your neighbors are out (weekends, after work, holidays, afternoons). Take interest in your neighbor's hobbies. Ask questions. Engage. Pray as you go. *Save some gas and the planet.*
3. **Be a Regular.** Instead of hopping all over the city for gas, groceries, haircuts, eating out, and coffee, go to the same places. Get to know the staff. Go around the same times. Smile. Ask questions. Be a regular. I have friends at coffeeshops all over the city. I pray for them. They give me free drinks and food. I give them the free gospel of grace. I know a professor that used to wait by his trash can each week for the garbage collector and gave him a drink. *Be a Regular.*
4. **Hobby with Non-Christians.** Pick a hobby that you can share with your city, community, town. Get out and rub shoulders doing something you enjoy with others. City League basketball, football, soccer. Local bowling and cycling teams. Teach sewing lessons, piano lessons, violin, guitar, knitting lessons. Be prayerful. Be intentional. Be winsome. Be gracious. Have fun. *Be yourself.*
5. **Talk to Your Co-workers.** How hard is that? take your breaks with intentionality. Get a drink with your team after work. Show interest in your co-workers. Pick four and pray for them. Form mom's groups in your neighborhood, just don't make them exclusively non-Christian. Schedule play dates with the neighbors' kids. *Be sociable.*
6. **Volunteer for a Local Non-Profit.** Find a non-profit in your part of the city and take Saturday a month to serve your city. Bring your neighbors, your friends, or your small group with you. The options are endless here. Attend an INC meeting. *Just do it.*



7. **Participate in City-wide Events.** Instead of playing X-Box, watching TV, or talking to your mom on the phone every weekend, go to the city garage sale, fundraisers, the festivals, the Haverhill Trails clean-ups, the summer shows, music festival @ Bradford Common, Christmas stroll, etc. Go and meet people. Study the culture. Reflect on what you see and hear. Pray for the city. Love the city. *Participate with the city.*
8. **Look for opportunities to Serve your Neighbors.** Help a neighbor by weeding, mowing, building a cabinet, fixing a car. Stop by the neighborhood association or apartment office and ask if there is anything you can do to help improve things. Stop by your local Police and Fire Stations. Ask if there is anything you can do to help them. *Get creative.*

Don't make the mistake of making "missional" another thing to add to your schedule. Instead, make your existing schedule missional. Integrate the Gospel, Community and Mission in

Read Isaiah 6. 1-8 Who needs the forgiveness of Jesus more, others or me? Why?

Besides family, what non-Christian person has been over for dinner?

Is there someone in my life I can invite to a meal?

How can I grow in these ways?
