

INITIATING GOD SPACE

**Luke 11:33-36 & I Peter 2:11-12 • February 27, 2022
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A. If not us, who will look out for the marginalized and outcast in our midst?

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors....they will see your honorable behavior and they will give honor to God... – 1 Peter 2:11-12

I. BECOMING A GOD SPACE PERSON.

A. What is God space?

- It is about creating a relationship with another where:
 - ✦ God is felt and encountered in tangible ways that address the longings and cries of the heart.
 - ✦ We come to the end of own finite resources and experience the infinite resources of God.
 - ✦ The natural gives way to the supernatural...seeds of faith are planted, watered and nurtured.
 - ✦ Gentleness and respect are present, judgment is absent and divine dialogue flows naturally because trust has been established.
 - ✦ The invisible principles of God's Kingdom are made visible in ways people can see, touch and feel.
 - ✦ The topic of God can be explored freely without agendas, biases, and personal convictions getting in the way.
 - ✦ Cynics, skeptics, scoffers, and spiritually curious people alike can raise their questions, share their doubts, voice their concerns and even vent their anger toward God and the Church.
 - ✦ The “unworthy” feel safe enough to bring their real selves out into the light, and to journey, one step at a time, toward the magnetic pull they sense deep in their souls.
 - ✦ Spiritual curiosity is aroused, and the message of Christianity becomes plausible.

“He has planted eternity in the human heart...”

– Ecclesiastes 3:11

II. IT'S ABOUT ESTABLISHING TRUST

A. Building trust with those that don't trust us (don't know us or had a bad experience with us).

Upright citizens are good for a city and make it prosper but the talk of the wicked tear it apart. It is foolish to belittle one's neighbor; a sensible person keeps quiet. A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence. Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many (wise) advisers.

– Proverbs 11:11-14

B. We have lost peoples' respect and trust. Can we blame them?

C. Jesus was trustworthy.

So, the Word (God) became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.

– John 1:14

III. HOW'S YOUR EYESIGHT?

A. What do you see? What might you be missing?

“Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness. Make sure that the light you think you have is not actually darkness. If you are filled with light, with no dark corners, then your whole life will be radiant, as though a floodlight were filling you with light.”

– Luke 11:34-36

- Do we have Jesus' vision?

When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His field."

– Matthew 9:36-38

- First, we need to notice. Once we notice we can act

Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate?

– Philippians 2:1

- Christian compassion sees and acts!

B. People trust someone who listens. S.O.L.E.R. listening tips:

- **S**quarely face the person.
- **O**pen posture.
- **L**ean a little bit forward
- **E**ye contact
- **R**elax

III. ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

A. Are you representing?

And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ...

– 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

- “One committed to representing the values of his or her kingdom even while living in a foreign land.”

B. It's about building bridges.

CONCLUSION: