

PASSIONATE PEOPLE PURSUING

Intro – This year I decided, that along with my daily reading of the **ONE YEAR BIBLE**, that I would also try to read at least one other book each month. The result has been great enrichment from a variety of books. The two most recent books, **PERMISSION GRANTED TO DO CHURCH DIFFERENTLY** and **REVOLUTION** have both fueled the fire of passion and radicalism that have always seemed to be a part of my DNA, and have caused me to examine our local church more closely.

In the book, **REVOLUTION** by the pollster George Barna, he examines the general state of the local church based upon his numerous studies and polls. His findings are alarming to say the least. Here are a few of them (taken from the book, pp. 29-35)...

- **REGARDING WORSHIP** – The attendance at worship services is, by believers' own admission, generally the only time they worship God, and 8 out of 10 believers do not feel they have entered into the presence of God, or experienced a connection with Him, during the worship service.
- **REGARDING FAITH-BASED CONVERSATIONS** – The typical church believer will die without leading a single person to a lifesaving knowledge of and relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **REGARDING INTENTIONAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH** – Only 9 percent of all born-again adults have a Biblical worldview. Although the typical believer contends that the Bible is accurate in what it teaches, he or she spends less time reading the Bible in a year than watching television, listening to music and reading other books and publication. ... When asked what constitutes success in life, few believers define success in spiritual terms.
- **REGARDING RESOURCE INVESTMENT** – Churched Christians give away an average of about 3 percent of their income in a typical year – and feel pleased at their sacrificial generosity. Fewer than one out of every ten churched Christians donates at least 10 percent of their income.
- **REGARDING SERVANTHOOD** – In a typical week, only one out of every four believers will allocate some time to serving other people.
- **REGARDING INFLUENCE** – The most significant influence on the choices of churched believers is... messages absorbed from the media, the law, and family members.
- **REGARDING FAMILY FAITH** – A large majority of church believers rely upon their church, rather than their family, to train their children to become spiritually mature.

So, what SHOULD we do about this? What CAN we do about this? Finally, what MUST we do about this?

Phil 3:12 – *“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I PRESS ON TO TAKE HOLD OF THAT FOR WHICH CHRIST HAS TAKEN HOLD OF ME.”*

**We must raise up a church of...*

1. PASSIONATE PEOPLE

- **Defined:** “Showing caused by **STRONG FEELINGS** or a **STRONG BELIEF** ... affected by **INTENSE EMOTION**”

**John 2:17* – *“His disciples remembered that it is written: ‘Zeal for your house will consume me’”*

**Col 3:17, 23* – *“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus ... work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...”*

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

1. In what way did the election, candidates and their voters display passion?
2. Pastor Rich also shared the analogy of football. How do football fans display passion?
3. Why is “passion” such an important ingredient for the church?

2. IN PURSUIT OF

**Phil 3:14 – “I press on toward the goal to win the prize...”*

Prov 29:18 – “Where there is **no vision, the people are **unrestrained**” (perish, K.J.V.)*

- **IT’S NOT ENOUGH TO BE PASSIONATE, IT MUST BE CHanneLED**

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

4. Continuing the analogies of the election and football, how do they illustrate this point?
5. Pastor Rich also shared how passion can be like “fire” or “raging water”. What point did he make using these pictures?
6. So, what is our goal and prize?

3. HIS PRESENCE & PURPOSE

- **MUST PURSUE BOTH**

**Luke 10:29-37 cf. Luke 10:38-41 (Two stories back to back)*

- **PURPOSE WITHOUT PRESENCE RESULTS IN “DEAD WORKS”**

**Ex 33:14-16 – “The LORD replied, ‘My presence will go with you’ ... Then Moses said to Him, ‘If your presence does not go with us, do not send us...’”*

- **PRESENCE WITHOUT PURPOSE IS “DISOBEDIENCE”**

Deut 2:3 – “You have circled this mountain long enough; **turn northward.”*

Ex 34:11 – “Your responsibility is to **obey”*

Ex 34:20 – “No one is to appear before me **empty handed.”*

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

7. What two stories appear in the Bible back to back showing that we must pursue both God’s presence and His purpose?
8. What two popular, best selling books did Pastor Rich read that each illustrated one of these?
9. How to “two wings” and “two oars” illustrate this?
10. Discuss “presence without purpose” and vice-versa.

JESUS INVITATION

*Luke 14:25-27,33 – “Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ‘If anyone come to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sister – yes, even his own life – **HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.** And any one who does not carry his cross and follow me **CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.** ... In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has **CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.**”*