



## SESSION 3 — *The Character of a Gospel Co-Worker* - Pastor Keith -

**INTRODUCTION: Illustration:** What kind of a co-worker are you? Are you reliable and dependable and appreciated by those above and next to you? Or are you duplicitous and lazy and frustrating to those who work with you?

1 Corinthians 3:9 records that all those who are planting and watering (vv. 6-7) so that God might give the growth of saving faith (vv. 5-6) are unified by this wondrous reality — they are “God’s fellow workers,” God’s co-workers! Brothers, understanding this incredibly rich privilege, recognize then that we have an incredible Co-Worker (God Himself!), an incredible job (participating in His very own mission), and incredible potential (His “field” and “building” is around us in those who will be saved)!

Never will we need to question the character of our divine Co-Worker. But, what kind of a co-worker are you in this work of giving the gospel? Are you engaged with faithfulness, dependability, and wisdom? Or are you lazy, absent, and disappointing in your labor? Do you frustrate your heavenly Co-Worker or are you really working alongside Him?

In this session, we want to consider the character of a gospel co-worker.

1. **Bold/Confident** — Correct misconceptions/misunderstandings about evangelism:
  - In our mission, it is not “us vs. them” (cf. Daniel 1:8-16; Mark 10:45).
    - They are image-bearers (Genesis 1:27; 5:1-3). We can affirm the reflection that we see in them, which will build camaraderie and provide a platform. They are not the enemy; the sin that broke and condemns them is, and the good that is in them just cannot rescue them.

- They are neighbors (Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 9:10-13). We are to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- It is command for all, not an option for some (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).
- We are simply channels and aren’t responsible for fruit (1 Corinthians 3:6-11).
- We don’t have to be blameless in order to do outreach (Psalm 103:10-14).
- Consider the motivations and methods provided for us in Scripture (Proverbs 29:25).
  - Motivations
    - Christ’s love for us (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
    - God’s judgment of us (2 Corinthians 5:10-11) — “The most sobering reality in the world today is that people are dying and going to hell today” (Bob Jones III).
    - Christ’s commission to us (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)
    - Our love for others (Romans 9:1-3)
    - Promised fruit (John 4:35; Romans 10:13)
  - Methods — presuppositional vs. narrative (see below); Jesus’ example; the record of the early church; resources and tools available today

### 2. **Prayerful**

- For boldness (Acts 4:23-31, Ephesians 6:19)
- For the unsaved (Romans 10:1)
- For opportunities (Colossians 4:2-4)

### 3. Expectant

- There is persuasion from the truth (Romans 8:38-39; 2 Timothy 1:12) — If you are persuaded and can share it with enthusiasm, it will be compelling.
- There is power in the gospel (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19).
- There are people ready to respond (Matthew 9:35-38; John 4:35; Colossians 4:2-3).
- There is the presence of Jesus Christ always (Matthew 28:18, 20).

### 4. Clear/Accurate (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Colossians 4:4)

### 5. Gracious/Loving (2 Timothy 2:24-26; Titus 3:1-8)

### 6. Distinct (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:15; 1 Peter 2:12)

### 7. Relational (Romans 9:1-3; 10:1) — “make friendships intentional...make intentional friendships”

- Your community (Gk. *oikos*, household/network/circle) — These are those who are closely connected with you (family, friends, associates). We are surrounded by people and can be overwhelmed by the sheer number of people who need to be reached (NOTE: “guilt trip” from others, you, or God?). This will help us focus on those that likely have been “stewarded” to us by God for the purpose of gospel ministry. Determine your *oikos*, then determine which are unchurched and/or unbelievers, and finally prayerfully look for opportunities to give the gospel.
- Your church — Engage in the follow-up process with our guests.

### 8. Wise/Dependent

- In who you speak to (Acts 8:26-40)
- In what you say (Colossians 4:5-6; 1 Peter 3:15) — **Application:** CHBC track rack or Apps (*The Exchange, The Story, Two Ways to Live* [NT or OT], etc.)!
  - A presuppositional approach (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) — *The Exchange* (good outline), *God’s Bridge to Eternal Life*
  - A narrative approach (Acts 17:16-34) — *The Scarlet Thread, The Story* (good outline), *Christianity Explored*
- In how you say it (Colossians 4:5-6)
- In when you say it

### 9. Faithful/Consistent (John 9:4; Colossians 4:5b; Acts 17:2-4; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

### 10. Worshipful — They love much who have been forgiven much (Luke 7:36-47; 1 Peter 3:15). “Truth in, truth out”: evangelism should be an overflow! “Missions exists because worship doesn’t” (John Piper). “More Christians brings greater glory to God; better Christians brings greater glory to God” (James MacDonald).

- “The glory of God is the only fire that can sustain evangelistic zeal in local church ministry” (James MacDonald; cf. John 17). This glory is not divorced from salvation, for nothing brings Him greater glory than salvation (Isaiah 12:2; 43:11; 45:22; Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:28-30; 3:6 [Isaiah 40:5]; 19:10; John 1:14, 16; Romans 9:23; 11:32-36; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Titus 1:3-4; 2:10, 13; 3:4, 6; Revelation 5:9-10, 12-13; 7:10-12; 11:15-18; 15:3-4; 19:1-2). This is because “God is the gospel” (1 Peter 3:18; John 17:3), not just heaven or forgiveness or healing. In other words, people need God, not just a ticket to heaven or pardon from their guiltiness. Thus, when they trust Christ, God becomes their “portion,” and sanctification is, in part, discovering the multifaceted ramifications of that. To take these thoughts to another level, the glory of God supersedes salvation, for taking

ourselves completely out of the picture, we must recognize that even if humans didn't exist (and even when they reject Him, 1 Corinthians 2:14-17), God would still be altogether lovely and the supreme object of worth-ship and love!

- So, we may become strong on the “how?” and “what?” of giving the gospel, but if we neglect the ultimate “why?” question, we may become like the timid disciples before Pentecost, who hadn't been filled with the glory of Jesus and the power of His Spirit.
  - Reading [James MacDonald's article](#) on the motivation of God's glory for evangelism and watching [their church's video](#) pumped me up to engage my community evangelistically.
  - Going through *Christianity Explored* and *Discipleship Explored* — which seek to simplify one's faith by impressing us with Jesus' gracious glory and compelling us to simply follow Him — pumped me up to engage IUPUI evangelistically.
  - Listening to [David Platt's message](#) on God's sovereignty being the fuel of death-defying missions pumped me up to engage my community evangelistically.
  - Being preached at about the glory of the gospel by Jeff Musgrave during his Exchange seminar pumped me up to engage my community with Christ.
  - Understanding my privileged mission as [followers of Jesus](#) (from Matthew 9-10, John 6, Luke 19, [Colossians](#), and [Titus](#)) and the reality of the battle (from 2 Corinthians 4:4—“god of this world is blinding the eyes of them which believe not, lest...”) pumps me up to deny possible liberties (e.g., social drinking), to view abortion/homosexuality as spiritual struggles not political ones, and to engage my community evangelistically.
  - Merely being told, “Now, we really need your help to evangelize our community this coming Saturday” or merely being told, “Be sure you're inviting your friends when Evangelist \_\_\_\_\_ comes this Sunday”

does nothing to stir my apathetic heart or challenge my unconvinced mind.

- The knowledge that I know I'm saved and would still be saved (headed to heaven!) even if I just coasted like many other believers seem to be doing—that knowledge, unchallenged by the power and glory of the gospel, causes me to let the fear of man and the desires of myself dictate what I do (or don't do) in life.
- Scripture begins with God being worshipped in creation (cf. Psalm 19:1) and ends with God being worshipped in recreation (cf. Revelation 5:1-14; 22:3, 9). So, worship God, and as you do, evangelize—give the gospel to the glory of God!