

# The Local Church and Outreach

How can a local church reach out to unbelievers and “homeless Christians” (believers who are not meaningfully joined to a local body of Christ)? Is outreach done by a few gifted individuals or is the entire church body, with its distribution of gifts, involved in reaching the lost and re-gathering Christians who have fallen out of fellowship with Christ’s church? Is the gospel culturally relevant, and if it is how can we communicate this to the lost without compromising its message? Answers to these questions and others are given in this four message series.

## *We Are All Equipped and Called to Confess Christ*

This message encourages Christians to realize that since they know how to find forgiveness of their sins, and power from Jesus Christ to pursue a life pleasing to God, they are basically equipped to share their faith with others. We are grateful for apologists, and those particularly gifted in answering an unbeliever’s objections to the faith, but in a large percentage of cases these unique gifts are not needed to effectively share your faith. This message explains how.

## *Seeker Sensitivity - Bad and Good*

Many problems have arisen in Evangelicalism as a result of churches believing that the most effective way to reach the lost is to address their “felt needs”. But are there some ways in which the phrase, “seeker sensitivity,” summarizes an important truth about our task of communicating the gospel to our generation? This message calls us to examine how effectively we are communicating the message of Jesus Christ to others and asserts that there are biblical ways to be “seeker sensitive”. Five New Testament texts are examined relating to communicating the Gospel.

## *Church Services for Believers and Unbelievers*

Must our worship services be designed either for believers or unbelievers? Is it possible that a church's worship can remain just that, worship and the building up of believers, and at the same time be a service which is effective in evangelizing the unbeliever? We think so and this message explains how our worship services can be effective means of evangelism.

## *The Church Body Working Together*

Effective evangelism results in enduring fruit. A person becomes a follower of Jesus Christ and is vitally connected to His larger body, the local church. Not everyone in the body does the same things relating to evangelism and outreach. But the different things each one does are indispensable for a church carrying out the task of evangelism and outreach. This message also discusses the church’s corporate witness and her most powerful apologetic.