

Going Out and Coming In

Numbers 27:15-21

Introduction

The cause of the kingdom and the community of the gospel are the two things which provide direction, protection and health for God's people. We need to be constantly moving back and forth between the cause and community of the cross. Christian growth is neither pietism or activism, but transformation of the whole life as we're engaged in both.

Discussion Questions

- Moses asks that his successor lead the people in two things. The first is in going out. This is a picture of waring against their enemies, freeing captives, taking new ground, and establishing their borders. In what ways are we called to go out as a church? What prevents you from proclaiming the gospel and pursuing others in love? What are some of the difficulties, obstacles, and battles that you face as you seek to tell others about Jesus?
- The second movement needed is that of coming in. This is a picture of refreshment, rest, healing, and encouragement. In what ways are we called to come in as a church? What prevents you from experiencing grace and healing? What are some of the ways you are refreshed and encouraged in your faith?
- A key element to the prayer is that the whole congregation is pictured as going out and coming in together. This is not a prayer for how each individual should live, but for corporate involvement in both directions. What are some of the obstacles to the formation of true community? What are some of the reasons we don't pursue more than superficial relationships with others in the church?

Think About It

The gospel compels us to be on a mission of love while it nourishes us in a fellowship of grace. We must continually call others to believe the gospel and we must be refreshed ourselves by the very same gospel. This is what it means to be the missional and communal people of God—the church.

What Will You Do?

Repent of the pride that prevents you from pursuing people inside and outside the church. Commit to extending grace and love to other people. Risk allowing others the opportunity to extend grace, love and healing to you. Walk in the freedom humility gives and pursue deep relationships with others inside and outside the church.

Renewing Your Mind

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb. 10:24-25)

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Pet. 2:9-10)

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (Rom. 12:9-13)

Prayer Requests

