



Sermon Series: The "C" Series

Part One: Called to Care

Philippians 2:3-6

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Introduction: When I came into the church many years ago I was taught that our priority as members of the New Testament church could be summed up with three words that began with the letter "C". The Great **Commandment** [Mark 12:30]; the Great **Commitment** [Mark 12:31]; the Great **Commission** [Matthew 28:18-20]. Several years ago I added a fourth "C"—the Great **Connection** [Act 2:38-39]. Now permit me to add a Fifth "C"—the Great **Call**. You and I are called to care.

Pastor Dan: Your calling is to take away the hurt of others. A little **caring**, a little love, a little kindness and a little taking an interest in others is as powerful as a great sermon; it is a move of God that will never fade, it will make an eternal difference in the lives of others.

#1. Called To Care

A. Pastor Dan: *Caring is what the Call of God of all about.*

1. We are Called to Care (*Galatians 6:9-10 Amplified* *Let us not grow weary or become discouraged in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap, if we do not give in. ¹⁰ So then, while we [as individual believers] have the opportunity, let us do good to all people [not only being helpful, but also doing that which promotes their spiritual well-being], and especially [be a blessing] to those of the household of faith (born-again believers).*

a. Robert H. Glover 1871-1947: The church was not designed to be a reservoir, ever-receiving and retaining for itself God's spiritual blessings, but rather a conduit, conveying blessings on and out to others everywhere [we are called to care].

- b. **Philippians 2:3-6** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself or herself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for your own interests, but also for **the interests of others**. ⁵ **Let this mind be in you** which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but **made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a **bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men.
- c. *Pastor Dan*: You and I don't need to learn how to serve Jesus; we need to learn how to surrender self [**Romans 12:1-3**].
- d. *Source Unknown*: Love is the very core of the Church's life; it is the central, hidden spring of all good service; it is the truest evidence of the purity and reality of the Church's health.
- e. *Ernest Southcott*: The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when God's people—strengthened by preaching ... go out of the church door into the world to be the church. We don't go to church; we are the church [**1 Peter 2:9**].
- f. *Pastor Dan*: It is love that causes our work for Christ to count, and it is work that causes our love to count. Work is not an adequate substitute for love and love is not an adequate substitute for work.
- * **Revelation 2:4-5** I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works [love God love people], or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.
- * **James 1:14-17, 26** What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
- g. *Source Unknown*: The outward forms may be perfect [music and preaching], zeal may be maintained [enthusiasm and excitement], patience unwearied, doctrine untarnished; but if love, the soul's secret energy, be impaired; time only is needed to bring the church to utter decay.
2. **We are called to Care** (**Ecclesiastics 9:10 NKJV**: *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.* **The Message**: *Each day is God's gift. It's all you get in exchange for the hard work of staying alive. Make the most of each one! Whatever turns up, grab it and do it. And heartily! This is your last and only chance at it, for there is neither work to do nor thoughts to think in the company of the dead, where you're most certainly headed*).
- a. *Wayne Blackburn*: Did you know that God has a special work for each of us that is divine in nature? If we fail to hear the **call** and do the work, the work will not get done. When we as followers of Jesus answer His **call**, and embrace the work of God with divine purpose, then the glory of the Lord will fall. What are you

doing with the call of God in your life, and the gifts He has given you? What work are you doing that pleases the Lord? **Ever person has a call**—a godly purpose.

- b. *Pastor Dan:* Your best is the least you should do.
- c. *D. L. Moody:* I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And that which I can do, by the grace of God, I will do it.
- d. *Author Unknown:* It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can do only a little.
- e. *William Penn:* I expect to pass through the world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness or abilities that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.
- f. *David Viscott:* The purpose of life is to discover your gift. The meaning of life is giving your gift away.
- g. *Soren Kierkegaard:* It is very dangerous to go into eternity with possibilities which one has prevented from becoming reality. A possibility is a hint from God. One must follow it.

Closing and Invitation; pg. 137 Just a Thought—No Limit: God is the same today as He was yesterday—He has no limits. He does not view us the way we see ourselves; and neither does He regard circumstances as we perceive them. God looked at a poor farmer named Gideon, not as he appeared that day, but for what he could become through His power. The Lord said to Gideon (Judges 6:11-13), “God is with you, O mighty warrior!” In spite of the fact that Gideon had never been to battle, never summoned a charge, never led troops and never commanded an army—God saw something in this man that no one else could see—not even Gideon himself. The potential of the average person is like a huge ocean unsailed, a new continent unexplored, a world of possibilities waiting to be released and channeled toward some great good (Brian Tracy).

One of our big challenges is believing that God will do what He said. Our temptation is to focus on our own ability, and more often than not, our own inability. We need not be extraordinarily gifted to accomplish great things. Many are afraid, thinking the Lord is going to ask them to do that which they cannot do, be something they cannot become and give what they do not possess. Through Christ we can conquer every obstacle hindering us from accomplishing His will for our lives. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:26-27, “Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many influential; not many were of noble birth . . . but God chose the weak things of the world to confound the strong.” Everything you need to please God is provided through the relationship you share with Him. Jesus said (Matthew 23:14), “Those who humble themselves will be exalted.” God sees in you that which you don’t see in yourself. Trust in what He sees “in you” and believe in what He believes you can become through Him.