

Title: **Critical Characteristics of a Christian Influencer (Part 2)**

Text: **Acts 20:17-24**

Date: **January 25, 2026**

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Big Idea

In our text, Paul gathers the Ephesian elders to say goodbye and encourage them one last time. As we overhear their conversation, we learn what it looks like to be a healthy disciple of Jesus making healthy disciples of Jesus. We see the critical characteristics of a Christian influencer.

Characteristic #7: They Get Alone with God

You don't get a sense of what God is wanting you to do by spending time amid the rush and noise of the crowd. You get a sense of these things by stepping away from the rush and the noise of the crowd for a bit and getting quiet in the desolate place before God. If you really want to influence people for Jesus, you don't start by pursuing a platform out in public, you start by pursuing Jesus yourself in private.

"All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone" (Blaise Pascal, Pensées).

"Let him who cannot be alone beware of community" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together).

Characteristic #8: They Answer with Abandon

A lot of times, when we think of someone who is a strong leader or compelling influencer, we think of someone who has a plan, someone who has it all worked out, someone who knows where they're going and what's going to happen when they get there. And, of course, there's some truth to that. But here Paul says: "I don't know what's going to happen. But I do know the one who's calling me, the one who goes with me, the one who's got me . . . and that's enough for me." Is that enough for you?

Characteristic #9: They Treasure Jesus Over Everything

Can we just jettison right now the notion that the God's will for you is that you always be healthy, wealthy, and prosperous?! Here we see the Holy Spirit doesn't lead Paul away from danger, away from hardship, away from persecution. No, the Holy Spirit leads him right into it. "I don't know much about what's waiting for me, but I do know this: it's going to be a rough go." Yet, even still, he's willing to go forward with it. Why? I think the key to all of this is found there with that phrase at the end of v. 24: namely, "the grace of God." When you truly taste the goodness of the grace of God for you in Jesus, you are willing to let all else go—that you might get it, that you might keep it, that you might share it.

"[W]hatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ . . ." (Phil. 3:7-8).

"[T]he love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

What are you living for? Why are we investing so much of our time, energy, resources into life this side of heaven—getting our toys, getting our stuff in order, getting our comforts padded around us, getting our best life now. Our best life isn't now. Our best life is to come—and it will be even better if we live for that day today!

Reflection Questions

- Read Acts 20:24 over a few times. How do Paul's words here land on you? What do they mean to you? What do you find encouraging, inspiring, convicting, or confusing? How would you apply this verse to your own life?
- Which of the three characteristics referenced in today's sermon do you most need to grow in would you say and why? What steps can you take? How can Jesus help?

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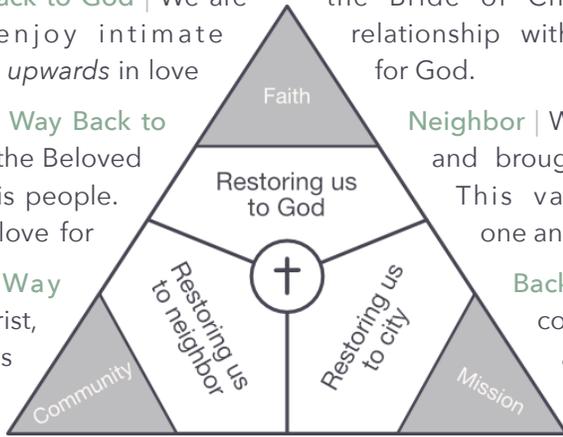
Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate relationship with God. This value presses our church *upwards* in love for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal relationship with his people. This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his ambassadors. This value presses our church *outwards* in love for the Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Campout - Save the Date!

We are excited to announce that we will again be hosting our All Church Campout at Mount Madonna County Park! This year, it will take place over the weekend of **June 26-28**. Mark your calendars. We have a huge group campsite all to ourselves and lots of options in the park for having fun together. Whether you love to camp or you'd rather still sleep in your own bed, we have something for everyone. More info to come as the day gets closer!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Sunday Prayer Walk - Today!

Nicaragua Short-Term Missions Trip - Applications Now Available!

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