



## Cultivating a Missions Mindset

### Characteristics of a missions mindset\_Part 4

#### INTRODUCTION

**CHARACTERISTIC 1:** We see sinners as people to be loved and befriended, not as enemies to be disdained and avoided.

**CHARACTERISTIC 2:** We make room in our lives to have friendships with unbelievers.

1. We believe evangelism should be facilitated by people not programs.
2. We recognize relationships as a helpful vehicle for sharing the gospel.
3. We understand God often saves through a process not in a moment.
4. We identify unbelievers within our sphere of influence.
5. We schedule time to open our lives and homes.
6. We utilize Christian community in gospel proclamation.

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Sure, there is that rare person who is uninhabited about sharing the faith. But if you ask most normal people what hinders their evangelism, the vast majority will tell you it's fear: fear of rejection, of looking stupid, or of being lumped into weird stereotypes about evangelists . . . So why do something scary and difficult by yourself? Believers, band together! Evangelize with believing friends who will pull you along. I appreciate personal evangelism, and we need to be equipped for it. But since I believe in the church as the engine of evangelism, we need to develop cultures of evangelism in our local churches, too. We want whole churches that speak of Jesus (J. Mack Stiles, *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*, 42)

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**CHARACTERISTIC 3:** We consider the eternity of the soul and the transitory nature of life.

1. Shapes our view of others

“It may be possible for each to think too much of his own potential glory hereafter; it is hardly possible for him to think too often or too deeply about that of his neighbor. The load, or weight, or burden of my neighbor’s glory should be laid on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken. It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you say it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no *ordinary* people. You have never talked to a mere mortal . . . it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendours (C. S. Lewis).”<sup>1</sup>

2. Impacts our usage of time

3. Dictates how we spend our money

4. Reminds us of God’s ownership

**CHARACTERISTIC 4:** We engage in mutual encouragement and discussion upon missions.

## CONCLUSION

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<sup>1</sup> C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses* (New York: Harper One, 1980), 45-46.