

4. Perceived cultural barriers and outright theological errors combine to . . . short-circuit evangelism.
5. The imbalance between the verbalization and the incarnation of the gospel has impacted our ability to speak the gospel.

II Corinthians 5:20 makes it clear that we are “Ambassadors” sent forth to bring God’s message of reconciliation to the lost.

1. Christ commanded us to speak the gospel (Mk 16:15; Acts 1:8).
2. Our love for Christ ought to motivate us to speak the gospel (II Cor. 5:14; John 14:15).
3. Our desire to glorify God ought to compel us to speak the gospel (John 15:8; I Cor. 10:31).
4. The example of Christ should encourage us to speak the gospel (Jn. 3, 4). There are 19 recorded private conversations of our Savior in the Gospels.
5. Early Christians modeled a willingness to speak the gospel (Jn. 1:41; Acts 8:4).
6. Christ alone can save sinners who are lost and going to hell (Jn. 14:6).
7. Every Christian is responsible to warn the lost of their fate, therefore, every Christian should speak the gospel (Ez. 33:8; Acts 20:26).
8. The believer who speaks the gospel is promised an eternal reward (Dan. 12:3).



CONNECTING TO COLONIAL’S CORE
Our Walk - 2

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SPEAKING THE GOSPEL

American churches are becoming increasingly generic. Denominational tags are passé. Doctrinal positions are muted while worship styles are touted. Per capita fewer Americans attend church today than at any other time in our country’s history. Very few churches clearly identify where they stand and why. Confusion abounds (I Cor. 14:8).

**THE PURPOSE OF
COLONIAL HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH**
Colonial Hills Baptist Church exists to glorify God (Eph. 3:21) by evangelizing the lost (Matt. 28:19-20), exalting Him in worship (John 4:24) and equipping believers to walk worthy of the Christ (Col. 1:10).

This purpose statement is a reflection of the Constitution adopted by Colonial Hills Baptist Church when it was founded. The Constitution says, “The object of this organization shall be to promote: The preaching of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in order to win people to personal faith in Him as Savior and Lord (Evangelizing the lost). To provide for the worship of God (Exalting Him in worship), the preaching of the Word of God, to administer the ordinances of the New Testament, to seek the spiritual improvement of our members (Equipping believers to walk worthy of the Lord), to maintain a Bible-believing (Baptist) Church to minister to its own community, and to extend a ministry of the gospel to the world.” (Constitution of Colonial Hills Baptist Church, p. 2.)

In order to be assured that we are fulfilling our purpose, we must frequently consider our practice. For purposes of clarity, Colonial’s practice may be divided along two lines of thought:

CONNECTING

Our Worship: The DNA of our Corporate Assembly.

1. Scripture-Saturated, Savior-Centered Preaching - Jn. 17:17.
2. Soul-Stirring Singing that Glorifies God – Col. 3:16.
3. Supplication before the Throne of Grace – Matt. 21:13.
4. Sacrificial Giving – I Cor. 16:2.
5. Sharing Communion – I Cor. 11:24.

Psalm 135 teaches us that right worship is Theo-centric (v. 1-2), reflecting God’s goodness (v. 3-4) and God’s greatness (v. 5-6). Right worship must be regulated by God’s Word not by man’s desires (Matt. 15:9). “When the church comes together on the Lord’s Day, it is no time to entertain the lost, amuse the brethren, or otherwise cater to the ‘felt needs’ of those in attendance. This is when we should bow before our God as a congregation and honor Him with our worship” (Worship: The Ultimate Priority, John MacArthur, p. 39.).

Worship must be conducted reverently. Psalm 96:9 says, “O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; fear before Him, all the earth.” In commenting on Psalm 96, H.C. Leupold notes, “This whole approach of theirs is further described as worship of the Lord ‘in holy array,’ that is to say, in such outward garb and demeanor as befits those that recognize the nature of the God they adore. And lest their approach be purely perfunctory, they are to approach in the spirit of deepest awe, that is to say, ‘tremble before Him.” (Exposition of the Psalms, p. 684-685).

Having considered our corporate worship, we focus on our personal walk. Because Colonial Hills Baptist Church is a body of believers, we must consider our practice as we assemble together and as we live in our community.

Walk: The DNA of our Individual Activity.

1. Studying the Scriptures – II Tim. 2:15.
2. Speaking the Gospel – Rom. 1:16.
3. Serving with Excellence – Rom. 12:11.
4. Sweetness in Fellowship – I John 4:7
5. Separated from the World – I John 5:15-17.

STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES

Every member of Colonial Hills Baptist Church is expected to, “Engage to maintain family and private devotions.” (Covenant of Colonial Hills Baptist Church.) In other words, we are committed to “Studying the Scriptures” personally (II Tim. 2:15). The Bible is the only source of spiritual growth for the believer (John 17:17). Colonial Hills Baptist Church encourages every

member to be a “Berean” and “search the Scriptures daily” (Acts 17:11). While a Christian may grow in faith by listening to sermons and songs or by reading books and magazines, such growth will only occur as the Word of God is shared or seen in these resources. Real Christian growth will only occur as the believer feeds on the Word of God (Heb. 5:10-14; I Pet. 2:2).

You can never have a Christian mind without reading the Scriptures regularly, because you cannot be powerfully influenced by that which you do not know.

1. Study the Bible to avoid sin (Ps. 119:9-11).
2. Study the Bible to see the direction God would have you to take (Ps. 119:130).
3. Study the Bible to provide answers for others who are stumbling (I Pet. 3:15).
4. Study the Bible in order to know Jesus better (Heb. 10:7).
5. Study the Bible to stay spiritually strong (Ps. 119:25, 28).
6. Study the Bible to live a life of hope (Ps. 119:74, 81).

Corporate worship ought to be an outgrowth of the believer’s personal walk. The Christian life cannot be sustained with strength on one meal each week. Regardless of how opulent Sunday’s buffet may be, the believer’s walk will only be sustained with strength when daily meals are a priority.

SPEAK THE GOSPEL

The Covenant of Colonial Hills Baptist Church says, “We . . . engage . . . to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.” Every person who chooses to be a part of this assembly is encouraged to say with the Apostle Paul, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16). Sadly, very few believers actually involve themselves in the work of evangelizing the lost. A LifeWay study conducted and published in August of 2012 revealed that 61% of evangelical Christians “fail to share their faith on a regular basis” (www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2012). The same study indicated that “only 21 percent . . . pray every day for their non-Christian acquaintances, and 20 percent said they rarely or never pray for the spiritual status of non-Christians.” The Good News of God’s plan of redemption is hidden under bushels of fear, apathy, pride, and ignorance.

Joseph Aldrich notes that there are many influences which hinder our effectiveness in speaking the gospel:

1. Excessive relational demands have crippled our relational capacities.
2. The pace of life: It is too fast and complicated.
3. Our exposure to unhealthy evangelism models.