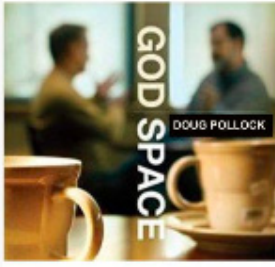


2019.9.22



TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5



Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- Ravi Zacharias notes: *"Today we have to find the back door into people's hearts—because the front door is heavily guarded."* What "guards" have you encountered from those who don't share your faith?
- If you fully embraced the idea that you are God's mailman, how does that change the way you think about your neighborhood, your work place, your family, and friends?

Jot down some of the people on your day-to-day route that God has put on your heart.

What hinders you from delivering God's mail to these people?

- If another Christian came up to you and asked you how to have a God conversation without being socially inappropriate what would you tell them?
- Read Colossians 4:5. Doug used a football analogy to help us apply this verse. What did you take away from his analogy that you could apply with the people on your day-to-day route?
- Doug defined **God Space** as: *"A place where God's love is demonstrated in practical, doable, and authentic ways. Safe space is created for cynics, skeptics, and spiritually curious people to raise their questions, express their doubts, and vent their frustrations. Seeds of faith are cultivated, planted, watered, and nurtured. Christianity becomes credible, relevant, plausible, and believable."*

What "**a-ha's**" did you have as Doug shared his story of how to practically create "God Space"?

Application-Challenge

- Come back **this evening** (4-6pm) to learn how **you** can create "God Space". **Free childcare**. More info at **tcc.org**, Search: **God Space**. After lunch (before you return this afternoon) take the **"Jesus Test"** (see inside).
- **For the next 31 days**, begin each morning with this prayer: *"Lord Jesus, as I interact with others today, help me to see them as you do."* Keep a written record of things you had not noticed before.

My Sermon Notes

Sermon Title: *Creating "God Space" in Your Life*

Speaker: *Doug Pollock*

Date: *2019-9-22*



Talking To God About This Week's Message

"Heavenly Father, today I want to be a 'doer' of the Word, and not just a 'hearer'. Amen."

Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, *"What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?"*, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

The “Jesus Test”

How we see and react to the people in our world who do not behave and believe like we do could be the truest indicator of how closely we are following the Jesus of the Bible. The following questions are intended to help you reflect on what it actually looks like to be “a friend of sinners” in today’s world. Prayerfully ponder each question before jotting down a number from 1 to 10 which best depicts your honest heart-felt response. When you’ve finished, add your individual scores together to come up with your total.

	Never	1	2	3	4	Sometimes	6	7	8	9	10	Always
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Are you willing to overlook attitudes and lifestyles that offend you in order to befriend not-yet-Christians?											
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Are you free from judgmental thoughts when you are around people who do not believe or behave like you do?											
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Do you seek to understand not-yet-Christians before seeking to be understood by them?											
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Are you patient enough to wait for not-yet-Christians to ask you for your opinion before you offer it?											
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Do you love people who are far from God?											
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Do people who are far from God like you? For instance, are you invited to their social gatherings and into their conversations?											
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Does your body language communicate an open heartedness towards not-yet Christians?											
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Are you able to offer unconditional love and acceptance (not endorsement) to people who offend your Christian sensibilities?											
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. In your relationships with not-yet-Christians, do you respond with kindness more than “rightness”?											
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Do you have compassion and empathy for not-yet-Christians?											

Test Results

Total:

90 to 100: Congratulations! Don’t be surprised if other Christians frequently misunderstand you. If Jesus was misunderstood for being a “friend of sinners”, so will you! Continue to live for an audience of One & some day you will hear “well done, good and faithful servant”.

70 to 89: You must decrease, Jesus must increase: one relationship at a time, one conversation at a time, and one heart attitude at a time. If most of your friends are Christians, it’s time to step outside your Christian bubble. Join a new club, pursue a hobby, find common ground with those who are outside the faith but within your reach. Resolve today to be in closer proximity to people who are far from God. Don’t be surprised if God uses “lost” people to save you from the attitudes in your heart that are not-yet like His. Please note: Do not make this outward journey on your own. Jesus sent his disciples out in two’s for a reason. Find an accountability partner!

Under 70: Jesus needs to do something in you before he can do something through you. Read *“The Prodigal God”* by Tim Keller to gain some fresh perspective. Read *“God Space”* for some practical, doable, and authentic ideas of how to practically be a “friend of sinners” in your day-to-day world. Begin each day with this prayer: *“Lord Jesus, help me to see the people who will cross my path this day the way you do”*. Then pay attention to the little nudges the Holy Spirit will give you as you walk through your day.

Note: The great need of the hour is for Christ-followers everywhere to leave the church on Sunday ready to be the church Monday through Saturday. If you are looking for some practical, doable, and authentic ways to help your church leave the building, please go to my website GodsGPS.com to learn more about the *“Activating God Space Kit”*. It was specifically designed to help you grow a more outwardly focused culture in the following ministry settings: Youth Ministry, Small Groups, Churches, Church plants, and is extremely valuable for preparing your people for Mission trips.