

The Fourth Wall:
Breaking Down the Barriers Between Us
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Principle #1: Cause creates community.

Our cause = moving people to become the person God created them to be.

Matthew 4:19 “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Jesus did not invite us to follow Him for what we could get, but what we could give.

Phil. 1:5 fellowship = “partnership with a cause”

Fellowship isn’t just what we do for each other. Fellowship is what do together for the world.

“The church isn’t here to meet our needs. We are the church, here to meet the needs of the world.” –
Erwin McManus in An Unstoppable Force

Principle #2: Meet the needs of those around us.

“persons of peace” – Mt. 10:11 look for those already searching (spiritually curious)

Acts 2:47 - The early believers were “praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.”

People weren’t repelled by the beliefs of the early church as much as they were intrigued by their character.

We need to seek to meet the physical, emotional, economic, and spiritual needs of those around us. We should pursuing changing the environment and changing the individual (social justice and evangelism).

Principle #3: Reach out to Xenos

“Xenos” is the Greek word for “stranger, alien, or foreigner.” Throughout the Scriptures, even in ancient times, God’s love for the stranger becomes clearly evident.

Hospitality means loving strangers. A similar word, “hospice,” means “a safe place.” Our homes, our businesses, and our churches should become safe places for strangers to experience kindness and love.

Principle #4: Develop authentic friendships with those you know.

OIKOS is the Greek word for household (family, neighbors, co-workers and friends)

Are we loving, serving, investing, and sharing with our family, neighbors, co-workers, and friends?

Luke 5:27-32 Parties give us natural environments to build relationships.

Jesus was willing to ruin His reputation to reach out to others who were far from God.

People are most open to God and discovering a relationship with Him in the midst of life's major transitions – a wedding, a baby, a move, a loss.

Principle #5: Allow people to belong before they believe.

We should never allow our convictions to become a litmus test for friendship. In fact, we should actively pursue friendships with people – even people with whom we may disagree.

Don't expect people to live as if they are a Christian when they aren't (especially since we have such a hard time doing it).

Jonah 3:10-4:3 God spoke of judgement, yet Jonah knew God is always looking to forgive.

Ninevites didn't have to have Jonah explain the many wicked things they were doing. The people around us expect judgment, but they don't expect forgiveness.

Romans 2:4 If God's kindness led us to repentance, shouldn't our kindness lead to the repentance of others?

Principle #6: Raise up a team of leaders to replace you

MPAC = Ministry through a pastor, assimilator, and catalyst

Pastor – are people growing in their faith in Jesus? (those already here)

Assimilator – are people experiencing the love we have in Jesus? (those who have been here and fallen through the cracks)

Catalyst – are people discovering the hope we have in Jesus? (those not yet here)

We need to make decisions based on who is not yet here rather than who has been here the longest.

Principle #7: Start Over

Resources:

www.notlikeme.org (a sermon series, small group experience, and book)

[Peppermint-Filled Pinatas: Breaking Through Tolerance and Embracing Love](#) available at Amazon.com or your local bookstore.

EricBryant.org (discover articles, messages, and films with insights into innovation, outreach, and stand up comedy)

[Books by Erwin McManus](#)

Mosaic.org (free podcasts, short films, and other resources)

[Mosaic Alliance.com](http://MosaicAlliance.com) (create the future with other missional churches)

A new network with a passion for Jesus, Humanity, and Innovation (www.originsproject.org)