

**“The 2030 Vision of Mound Evangelical Free Church:
A Compelling Community”**
Sermon Notes

➤ **The mission of Mound Evangelical Free Church is to be
and make disciples of Jesus Christ**

**Therefore, in our 2030 Vision, we believe that God is calling
us to become a **compelling community**...*

1. A compelling community cares with the help of God’s grace (Matthew 5:16; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

2. A compelling community counsels with the hope of the gospel (1 Corinthians 14:24-25; Romans 1:16; 15:4; 1 Peter 1:3; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Next Week: Sanctity of Human Life Sunday 2025

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the week of January 12th-18th

Getting Started

1. If you are a Christian, do you know your spiritual gift(s)? Wayne Grudem defines a spiritual gift as “...any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the church.”¹ While the New Testament lists about two dozen different gifts², we are wise to bear in mind that such lists are not likely intended to be exhaustive. In order to discover our gifts, the following questions can be helpful:
1.) What are you good at³? 2.) What have others told you you’re good at? 3.) What sorts of things that you do have brought blessing into the lives of others? 4.) What would you like to learn / explore / be trained at in order to discover whether you might have some gifting in that area? 5.) As you look around our congregation, what sorts of obvious needs do you see with which you could help?

Digging Deeper

2. Provided you have discovered your gift(s), are you currently deploying them in the local church? If so, how? If not, why not?

¹ Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Crossway Books. 1994.

² Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 7:7; 12:8-10; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11.

³ When answering these questions, don’t first think of “churchy” applications (Bible study, singing on the music team, serving in the nursery, etc). Answer as honestly as you can, even if that answer doesn’t sound particularly “spiritual”. The key is at this point is simply to discover your gifts; we can figure out what it looks like to deploy them down the road.

Open Your Bible to Genesis 2:7...

3. Genesis 2:7 contains an entire world of anthropology in one sentence: - "...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature." According to this verse, what is the composition of human beings? Why does it matter as Christians that we get the answer to this question right (also what are the implications of minimizing either component)? What are the implications for our lives? Marriages? Families? Friends? Neighbors? Co-workers?

4. What is the effect of the fall on our essential nature as human beings (Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12; 3:10-18)? How does sin influence both the material and immaterial aspects of our lives? Moreover, the Bible tells us that even the earth itself is impacted by the ravages of human rebellion (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 8:19-22). You won't need to look any further back than the first two weeks of this new year in order to answer this...but share a recent example of the effects of the fall in your mind / heart / soul, your body, and the earth itself.

5. How is the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ good news for both our bodies and our souls, even the entire cosmos (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, 47-49; Revelation 21-22)? Given each of these dimensions of the gospel, on which aspects of the good news do you tend to dwell most? Which do you tend to overlook? Why?

6. Given that all 8 billion persons on this planet are made of dust and breath (body and soul), it ought not to surprise us that the church is called to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to bear in people's lives that address both suffering and sinning, word and deed, offering both practical help as well as spiritual hope. Peter makes this clear in the way that he describes two essential expressions of spiritual gifts in the church (1 Peter 4:10-11). According to verses 10 and 11, how ought those with word gifts seek to employ them? What does this mean? Moreover, according to verses 10 and 11, how ought those with deed gifts seek to employ them? What does this look like? What is the ultimate purpose of these grace gifts in the life of the church according to verse 11? How does this make you feel about the spiritual gift(s) that the Lord has given to you? If you're not certain about which gift(s) you might have, how does this encourage you to discover them (see also questions #1 and 2)?

7. We believe that in our 2030 Vision, that God is calling our church to become *a compelling community*. What practical aspects of the *care* portion of our vision intrigue you the most (see point #1 of Sunday's sermon)? How do you think you might become involved? What practical aspects of the *counsel* portion of our vision intrigue you the most (see point #2 of Sunday's sermon)? How do you think you might become involved?

8. Close your time together as a group praying for the Lord's blessing on our 2030 Vision, asking him how you can use your gift(s) to bring glory to Christ, to edify the church, and to reach the Westonka area and the broader West Metro.