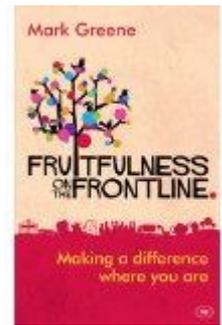


Mark Greene: Fruitfulness on the Frontline – making a difference where you are

IVP 2014, notes by [Alison Morgan](#)



Gentle challenge – how to live your faith every day, helping God’s kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, through relationships. Written with a massive sense of humour, with lots of stories and personal examples.

Foundations for fruitfulness

Frontline – a place or a time where we meet fairly regularly with people who don’t know Jesus. Can be anywhere – your local supermarket, the school gate, your workplace, your friendship circle.

What is fruit? More than just bananas (or leading people to Christ). It’s everything we do which brings glory to the Father – 1 Peter 2.12, so that they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us (not necessarily straight away). We need a richer picture of what fruitfulness looks like.

A Framework for fruitfulness

He proposes 6 models for thinking about dimensions of fruitfulness:

- M1 – Modelling godly character (displaying the fruit of the Spirit)
- M2 – Making good work (committing our ordinary daily tasks to God)
- M3 – Ministering grace and love (being kind and helpful to people around us)
- M4 – Moulding culture (the way we do things (doing things in ways which reflect God’s ways, and influence the culture around us)
- M5 – Being a mouthpiece for truth and justice (in our community, for individuals, at work)
- M6 – Being a messenger of the gospel (communicating the hope we have in Jesus)

NB Paul does not say the fruit of the Spirit is doing loving things, kind or gentle things – it’s the living presence of those qualities in us. So we react with patience not because we’ve remembered we are sposed to, but because patience has become part of who we are. Apple trees can’t help but produce apples.

Work – our work is meant to create a context for human flourishing, whether that’s in our home or in our workplace or in our neighbourhood. We are called to be involved in making God’s world as much as he would like it to be as we can, until he returns. So – are you painting someone’s house, or ministering to that person? Doing the minimum at work, or putting yourself out for people?

Ministry – we set the bar too high. Ministry isn’t an evangelistic project or a major initiative, it’s love in action. Wherever.

Culture – changing culture at work by bringing cake, or sending thankyou notes, or being quick to apologize.

Truth and justice – sticking up for someone who is being bullied, refusing to bend the rules, tell lies etc.

Sharing the gospel – pray, care, share, offer ways forward. That’s all. The rest is up to God.

‘The reality is that there are many, many wonderful stories of what happens when a local church gets behind their overseas missionaries in prayer and wisdom and encouragment and finance, but we do not yet have many stories of what God does when a local church gets behind frontline missionaries in prayer and wisdom and encouragement and perhaps even in finance.’ 193