

Northwest University's Student Magazine

TALON

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BREAKING THE BUBBLE

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It's easy to find yourself stuck in a rut. We've all been there; unable to change a lifestyle that is hindering our Christian walk. It's easy to find yourself in a place you don't want to be, whether that is blatant rebellion or simply forgetting what God has called you to. Ironically, being consumed by the Christian culture can put you in that place.

Attending school at a Christian campus is great because it's a time where college students can focus on their faith without constant pressure or conflicting views from nonbelieving teachers and students. It's a place where college students can be encouraged and prepared to defend what they believe in their career. But it's also a place where overexposure of the Christian culture can smother a student's faith to the point where they aren't doing anything beneficial for the Kingdom.

As students at Northwest University, we may find ourselves in a precarious position to see our walk with Christ as a chore. With required spiritual life credits, and being graded on Bible classes, spiritual disciplines may begin to seem more like homework than elements of growth in a relationship with Jesus.

While attending Moody Bible Institute in Spokane, my schedule was entirely composed of Biblical courses. As someone who doesn't particularly like schoolwork, my whole mindset of studying the Bible changed and I began to view it more as a textbook than God's will for my life. It took me an entire semester to realize it was all about mindset. I could either view my assignments as only schoolwork, or I could see them as opportunities to further my relationship with God.

On the other hand, instead of being smothered by the Christian culture, it's possible to enjoy it so much that you forget about the outside world. If we are called to show God's love to the world, then we must break out of the comfort and familiarity of the "NU Bubble" and befriend people outside of our campus. NU doesn't have a large population, and after establishing a friend group, you may rarely be challenged to explore beyond it.

A tip for breaking out of this bubble is to find something you like to do off campus. In Spokane, I broke out from

the Moody Bible Institute bubble in my trips to the gym. I went to the downtown YMCA five days a week and I was intentional about meeting people. After working out I would sit in the sauna, a small, sweaty room filled with strangers. I found it to be an unusual and ideal place to start conversations. Thinking outside of the box, and the bubble, can provide you with opportunities to have interactions and develop relationships that you would have never expected.

Breaking out of the bubble is difficult, especially when your time is filled with classes, papers, studying, sports, and many other responsibilities. But God has called us to share the gospel with others, and if all your friends go to NU then there isn't anyone to share that with. We have to befriend people outside of NU's campus and not neglect to share the Gospel with others.

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