

Introduction to Great Commission Studies

Week One: Understanding “Evangelism” and “Missions”

The Definition of Evangelism

- Will Metzger, *Tell the Truth* (1984), 25: “If we think wrongly about our definition of evangelism, we are likely to act wrongly in our methods of evangelism.”

Terms for Evangelism

1. *euangelion*—as a noun
2. *euangelizomai*—as a verb
3. *euangelistes*—as a noun, used to describe the role of an evangelist
4. *kerusso*—to proclaim as a herald

Some Images for Evangelism

1. witness (Acts 1:8)
2. fishers of men (Mark 1:17)
3. ministers of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
4. other images of the responsibility of the church (based on Delos Miles’ understanding of evangelism)—
 - Being:
 - the salt of the earth, the light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16)
 - the aroma of Christ (2 Cor. 2:14-16)
 - ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 5:20)
 - Doing:
 - fishing for men (Mark 1:17)

- bearing fruit (John 15:8)
- serving as ministers of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
- making disciples (Matt 28:18-20)
- interceding for others (Rom 10:1)
- Telling:
 - proclaiming the gospel (Mark 1:14-15)
 - bearing witness to Christ (Acts 1:8)
 - declaring His praise (1 Peter 2:9-10)
 - teaching and preaching (Acts 5:42)
 - exalting His name (Acts 2:38, 47; 4:12)

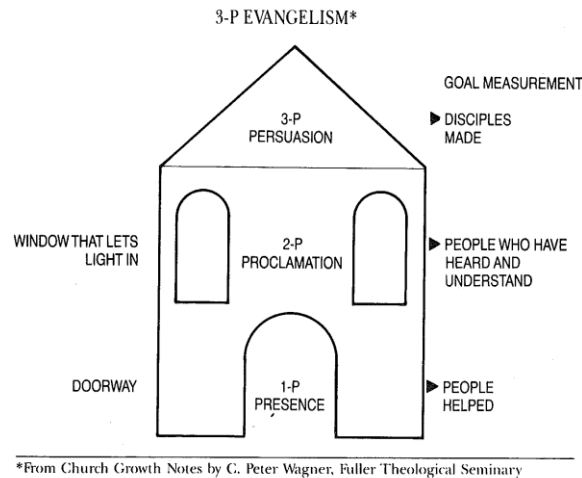
Lawless' Definition:

- Evangelism is telling the good news of Jesus Christ, depending upon the triune God to draw His own unto Himself and His church.

The Relationship between Evangelism and Church Growth

- I. Sources of Church Growth
 - A. Conversion growth— growth that results from non-believers turning to Christ
 - B. Transfer growth—growth that results from church members moving their membership from one congregation to another
 - C. Biological growth— growth that results from attenders having babies
 - D. Attender growth – increasing attendance numbers from people who attend, but do not join the church
- II. Types of Church Growth
 - A. Expansion growth— growth due to increased numbers
 - B. Internal growth— spiritual growth of believers
 - C. Extension growth— church planting within a similar culture
 - D. Bridging growth— church planting across cultures
- III. Types of Evangelism
 - A. “1-P” evangelism— Presence Evangelism = opening the door to evangelism by living a good life and doing good deeds before non-believers
 - B. “2-P” evangelism— Proclamation Evangelism = proclaiming the gospel

- C. “3-P” evangelism— Persuasion Evangelism = proclaiming the gospel, with the goal of persuading the unsaved to follow Christ and be “folded in” to the local church



- D. “E-0” evangelism— evangelizing church members
 E. “E-1” evangelism— “near-neighbor” evangelism
 F. “E-2” evangelism— evangelism across a small ethnic, cultural, or linguistic gap
 G. “E-3” evangelism— evangelism across a large ethnic, cultural, or linguistic gap

Introduction to Missions

Background: The State of the World

Definitions Related to Missions

- 1) “mission” (*missio dei*) = the _____ of God.

- 2) “missions” = the specific work of the church and agencies in the task of reaching people for Christ by _____
 -See Gary B. McGee, *Introducing World Missions: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Survey*, Kindle Locations 405-407.

- 3) “missionary” = one who is _____; one who intentionally crosses cultural boundaries for the purpose of leading non-believers to follow Christ and then plant new churches
- 4) “missiology” = the science or study of _____; typically includes (1) the nature of missions, (2) the goal of missions, and (3) the means or method of missions
- 5) “people group” (*panta ta ethne*) = A significantly large grouping of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common _____ with one another. For evangelization purposes, a people group is the largest group within which the gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering _____ of understanding or acceptance.
-See The Joshua Project
- 6) “unreached” = An unreached or least-reached people is a people group among which there is no _____ community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group.
- 7) “unengaged” = a group that is unreached and has no active _____
_____ underway
- 8) “incarnational” = to “put _____ on”; to live among the people in order to reach them
- 9) “majority world” = variously understood as the “the third world” or “the developing world,” the world outside of the Western world (primarily _____, Asia, _____, and Oceania)
- 10) “contextualization” = communicating the gospel in other areas of the world while being both faithful to God’s Word and _____ to the culture
-See Zane Pratt, David Sills, Jeff Walters, *Introduction to Global Missions*, 149.