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 ________________

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.