



Phillips
Theological Seminary

Reimagining Evangelism

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Negative Connotation

- Uncomfortable
 - Not want to go door-to-door
 - Not want to talk about religion with strangers
- Faith is private
 - What I believe is up to me
- Ruin friendship
 - May not like my church
- Not like those people
 - Differentiate our version of Christianity

What is Evangelism?

- The word evangelism is not actually used in the Bible
- Euangelizo-verb
 - What I believe is up to me
 - “eu” – good
 - “angel” – messenger
 - To evangelize is to tell a good message
 - Luke 4:18



Kerygma

- Proclamation
- Not just preaching
- Sharing the message



Koinonia



- Community
- How do we share our life together?
- At its best it should mirror the Trinity
 - perichoresis

Diakonia

- Service
- We do something out in the world
- Healing, feeding and reconciling



Martureo

- Martyr
- Martureo – witness
- Give our whole lives to something

The Challenge

- We tend to do one or two, but not all four.
- Congregations heavy on kerygma
- Congregations heavy on diakonia

The Why

- **Salvation**
 - Relationship with Jesus
- **Church growth**
 - Grow my congregation
 - More people to help us pay the bills
- **Is there an alternative that does not ignore the above?**

The Why

- **Participate in God's transforming work**
 - It does not exclude salvation or church growth
 - It is a vision that fits with God's reconciling work for the world
 - It shapes the way we engage (God's work started before us and continues after us)
 - Sign, Word and Deed (fishes and loaves)

The Why

Participate in God's Transforming work

- Not assume transformation works one way (we are being transformed by others)
- Not assume by participating in God's work someone will become a Christian (or go to my church)
- Assume that I am God's ambassador and a window into God's transforming work
- Assume at the heart of evangelism is authentic relationships with God, neighbor and self
 - (Harrison 10)

The Why

- Foretaste
- Sam's club
- What we help others experience

Renewal

- Renewal into the image of God
 - Love of God
 - Love of neighbor
 - Love of self

Inviting

- Often we invite people to worship
- Alternative entry points
 - Mission and/or community engagement
 - Affinity Groups
 - Focus on children/youth
 - Social media

Collaborate

- We do not have to be lone rangers
- Partner with others in your community
 - School (supplies, help in classroom)
 - Other congregations (feeding program, clothes)
- Paul had several ministry partners (Priscilla and Aquila)

Hospitality

- Is making space for new people to have a voice
 - How do new people get integrated into life of congregation?
- Is making space for new ways of encountering God
 - Creative encounters beyond

Making a Difference

- As Christians we are hoping to participate in God's work of transformation
- Start small. Focus on one thing. Don't do everything.
 - A lot of opportunities not do everything
 - Use our gifts toward a common end
 - Not compete with what others are doing
 - Church in a rural area about 20 people. Not have a lot, but they could do small house repairs.
- Question: "Are we doing too much?"

Making a Difference

- Not focusing on size
- The Busyness trap
 - Creating lots of programs
 - Burn people out (20% of the people do 80% of the work)
- Success
 - Think about what we are measuring (often busyness)
 - Different depending on context

Making a Difference

- One measure – Formation
 - Consistent with participating in God's transforming work
- Formation
 - Spiritual (worship, study)
 - How is our worship reflecting God's transforming work?
 - How are we being shaped by God's word?
 - Outwardly engaged (study and practice)
 - What are we going to do as a result of being shaped by God's word?
 - We actually participate
 -

Making a Difference

- Biblical Narrative
- Texts related to communion (Matthew 26: 26-28 and I Corinthians 11:20-26)
- How do you embody the narrative in your spiritual and outwardly focused engagement?

Making a Difference

- Communion
- Spiritual
 - Worship – celebrate at a table where we can come together
 - Study – what did it mean to be together at the table in biblical times (I Corinthians text)
- Outwardly Focused Engagement
 - Study – How are we going to apply our study of the Corinthian text
 - Practice – our feeding ministry we do not just invite people to get food. We sit and have a meal with them.

Success

- Measure are we better hosts?
- Measure are we building stronger relationships with the guests coming to eat.
- Harder to measure – observe if we are living out the practice of communion differently.

Reimaging Evangelism

- Evangelism is not transactional
- Evangelism is about participating in God's transforming work
- Evangelism is about being formed by the biblical narrative in way that it alters the way we engage the community
- Evangelism is about authentic relationships with God, neighbor and self

Reimagining Evangelism

- How would you apply this framework in your context?
 - Is there a ministry you are doing in the community now that can work in the framework?
 - Are there biblical texts that can be used to illumine the ministry?
 - What can you learn from how they engaged the texts in biblical times?
 - How will you alter the way you practice the ministry (may not) based upon reimagining evangelism?



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