

Building a Culture of Evangelism

Lesson 1: What is Evangelism?

I. Introduction

A. Word Association

B. Overview of *Evangelism* by J. Mack Stiles.

Stiles says the kind of evangelism that we should strive after is, “a culture of evangelism that is build on people filled with the power of God’s Spirit proclaiming the gospel of God’s grace in the context of their everyday lives and relationships (14-15).”

To help us get there, Stiles describes what is needed to help our church build this culture of evangelism. Is this book he wants to get a us to a place where we are: well prepared, live a life shaped by the gospel, and practice evangelism as a spiritual discipline. Evangelism is part of the church’s DNA is is what we are and what we do.

C. Evangelism Stories.

1. How did you come to faith? What kinds of evangelism have you witnessed or participated in?
2. Humility and evangelism. The Lord uses crooked arrows to hit the target! I remember one clever quote I heard somewhere, “I like the way we do evangelism better than the way that you don’t do it!”

II. A Definition of Evangelism

A. Apologetics, Outreach, and Evangelism

1. The difference between apologetics and evangelism.
2. The difference between outreach and evangelism.

B. Stiles’ Definition

1. Short definition, “Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade (26).”

2. Amplified definition, “Evangelism is teaching (heralding, proclaiming, preaching) the gospel (the message from God that lead us to salvation) with the aim (hope, desire, goal) to persuade (convince, convert) (ibid.).”
3. What are the four components in this definition? If any are missing is evangelism taking place?
4. We aim to persuade, but persuade without manipulation.

III. Summary Conclusion

Next Week: A closer look at the four aspects of evangelism