

Theology of Evangelism

GOD'S PROGRAMME: GOD ON MISSION!

- God has planned a victory
- The end has come and is coming
- There will be a resurrection of the righteous and unrighteous.
- God is gathering the Gentiles in
- God is being patient as we wait.

THE CHURCH'S PROGRAMME

- John 20:21 "As the Father has sent me, so I send you..."
- Matthew 28:18-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and behold I am with you till the end of the age"
- Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

INDIVIDUAL COMMANDS

- Intentionality + Wisdom: Colossians 4:5-6 "Walk in wisdom towards outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

- Readiness: 1 Peter 3:16 “But in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect”
- Godliness: 1 Peter 2:12 “Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honourable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation”
- Suffering: Philippians 1:29 “For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.”

APPLYING THE PROGRAMME

Method: here are the contours - act appropriately within this programme.

Method: no direct commands, but rather strong examples, and the task given to the body.

Method: as a body we make a variety of contributions to the whole programme of disciple making.

“Witness” as a helpful category.

- Commending Christ
- Accents privilege

SYSTEMATIC CONSIDERATIONS

- God's sovereignty
- God's desire for the lost to be saved
- The gospel as the power of God - words needed (Romans 1:16)
- Twin responses of the gospel
- Humans as loved by God
- Humans as irrational (image of God damaged but not destroyed)
- Belief a moral issue
- Humanity still reasoning being
- Ourselves as imperfect witnesses - sanctification
- Ourselves - justified by grace through faith on the basis of Christ's merit alone - not our evangelism
- Ourselves - embracing suffering in the Christian life
- Spirit - key role is in empowering his people for witness and a large part of that is boldness.

- Church - our love for one another is a key dimension
- Church - body working together, different gifts and strengths
- The offer: eternal life in God's kingdom.
- The warning: eternal punishment in the wilderness
- Christ - The urgency: Salvation by Christ alone is a necessity (Acts 4:12)