
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES
ITEM Conference on Ministry and Preaching
Dr. Steve Van Horn

PRINCIPLES OF NEW TESTAMENT EVANGELISM

Ministry Lecture #4

Introduction:

I. EVERY LOCAL CHURCH MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS OWN COMMUNITY. THE FULFILLMENT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION BEGINS WITH EACH CHURCH'S "JERUSALEM." (ACTS 1:8)

- A. It is responsible to fill the community with love
- B. It needs to demonstrate unity and oneness.
- C. Love, unity, and oneness will give them a chance to speak the gospel.

II. DOING EVANGELISM AS A GROUP OF BELIEVERS IS BASIC TO PERSONAL EVANGELISM.

- A. Jesus said, "Love one another."
- B. Paul wrote "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Rom 13:9).
- C. Peter wrote, "Keep your behavior excellent around the Gentiles (unbelievers) (1 Pet 2:12). Excellent behavior is what makes the gospel powerful.
 - 1. Christians need to demonstrate integrity in the community (1 Thes 4:11-12).
 - 2. Christians need to show unselfishness in the community (Rom 13:7).
 - 3. Christians need to be wise when dealing with the unsaved in the community (Col 4:6).
 - 4. Christians are to live an orderly, disciplined life in the community (1 Cor 10:31-33)
 - 5. Christians are to be humble around unbelievers (1 Pet 2:18).

III. PRESENTING THE GOSPEL TO THE UNSAVED IS TO TAKE PLACE PRIMARILY IN THE COMMUNITY NOT IN THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY.

- A. The New Testament suggests that when the church gathers on Sunday it is for believers not unbelievers.
- B. It is possible that non-Christians might enter a church during a worship service.
 - 1. But the result is that they should feel convicted because of their sin (1 Cor 14:23-25).
 - 2. The non-Christian will be convicted by all and called into account by all (1 Cor 14:24). This speaks of “group evangelism.” The church as a group is witnessing by their lives and worship.

IV. THE PRIMARY FOCUS FOR EVANGELISM SHOULD BE ADULTS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS.

- A. Jesus chose adults and even when he spoke about children he was speaking to adults.
- B. The goal was to lead entire groups including family and friends to Christ.
 - 1. Lydia and her household came to Christ (Acts 16:15).
 - 2. The Philippian jailer and his household became followers of Christ (Acts 16:31-34).
 - 3. Zaccheus and the nobleman in the gospels were converted (Luke 19:9).
 - 4. Cornelius and his household all became followers of Christ (Acts 10).
- c. There are good reasons to concentrate on adults in evangelistic outreach.
 - 1. It can be difficult if a small child becomes a Christian and the parents are not.
 - 2. Parents who are Christian already become the primary way the child grows spiritually after becoming a Christian.
 - 3. When a total family believes in Christ it creates a tremendous impact in the community.
 - 4. Families are what healthy churches are built with.

V. THE CHURCH IS RESPONSIBLE TO IDENTIFY THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SPECIALLY CALLED BY GOD TO TAKE THE GOSPEL IN A SPECIAL WAY TO THE COMMUNITY AND OTHER PLACES IN THE WORLD AS MISSIONARIES.

- A. The church should commit to praying for these missionaries.
- B. The church should try to help the missionaries financially.

VI. NEW CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- A new Christian will grow to spiritual maturity only when they are involved in a good, Bible teaching church.

Summary: Why the church exists in the community is clear. It is to show love, unity and oneness, and share the gospel with non-Christians.