

EVANGELISM:

how the whole church speaks of Jesus

Week 6 - A Culture of Evangelism

This week, we look at the next five aspects of a culture of evangelism in the church. Which of the first five do you think is most important? Which do we do well? Which is our shakiest?

#6: A culture in which people teach each other (1 Peter 3:15b; 2 Tim. 1:13)

"I would happily trade all the pizzazz of stunning speakers, mind-blowing music, and wildly popular Easter pageants for a culture of evangelism in which people are trained to lead a Bible study with a non-Christian in the Gospel of Mark, point to the message of the gospel in the text, and urge the unbeliever to come to Jesus based on the truth of what he has learned from the Scriptures." (55)

Question—How do our members teach each other?

#7: A culture that models evangelism (2 Tim. 2:2)

The author's wife was meeting with Ruth (a new believer) and her friend Samanti (a non-believer). Ruth wanted Samanti to come to Jesus, but she needed help explaining Christianity. So, the author's wife led them both through *Christianity Explained*. While Samanti heard the gospel clearly, Ruth was also learning to evangelize!

"New believers have the zeal and the contacts that older Christians often lack. However, older Christians have the insight and knowledge that younger Christians need...In a culture of evangelism, people model evangelism for one another." (55-56)

#8: A culture that celebrates people who are sharing their faith (Phil. 2:19-22)

In this kind of culture, a church wants to hear and applaud stories from members who are trying to share the gospel. "I yearn to be in a church where even evangelistic *attempts* are championed. Even if an evangelistic effort doesn't lead to a gospel conversation, evangelistic failure is better than not trying evangelism at all!" (57)

#9: A culture that knows how to affirm and celebrate new life (Col. 1:3-4,7)

It's important that we are careful not to elevate new converts to celebrity status. We respond 'Hallelujah!' when person repents and believes, always keeping our focus on Christ. However, we also recognize that baptism is only the beginning: "The most important check to [false conversions] is threefold: a good understanding of the gospel, a changed life, and a long-term walk with Christ." (58)

#10: A culture doing ministry that feels risky and dangerous (Phil. 1:12-13)

"A funny thing happens when we take risks: we become dangerous—that is, in the spiritual realms—to those who have their minds set against God." (59)

Question—What would you consider 'risky' evangelism in your context?

#11: A culture that understands that the church is the chosen and best method of evangelism (Acts 2:46-47)

It's in the context of a local church that evangelism happens most effectively! It's our job, it's our privilege, it's what we were designed for. We will spend all of next week exploring what this means.