

Plato-style Evangelism

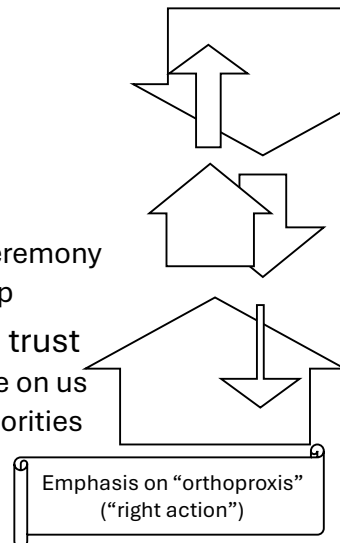
- = Spreading the Good News
 - ~ "You can be saved"
- = Convincing people of
 - (a) a lot of bad news
 - (b) some good news (for your soul) and
 - (c) to make an intellectual choice = "convert"
- Danger: Relationships are just a means to an end
 - i.e. a way to "get" potential "converts"
 - Perils of policing who is "in" (-> legalism & hypocrisy)



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Three kinds of "belief"

- Accepting statements as true
 - E.g. apples fall due to gravity
 - God exists, Jesus was raised, ...
- Explicitly agreeing
 - E.g. saying "I do" in a marriage ceremony
 - Affirming that we need Jesus' help
- Acting accordingly, A.K.A. faith, trust
 - E.g. allowing a surgeon to operate on us
 - Living every day with Kingdom priorities



God's mission is not to destroy the world!

Real Good News

- God: Loving and Good
- Problem: Rebellion and idolatry, including "satan" & sin
 - => Broken relations
- Solution: God deals with our debt, heals our sickness and disarms sin
- Response: We live as part of God's family under God's new rule on earth
- Outcome: God reconciles ALL THINGS to God

A lot of good news

Some (fairly obvious) bad news

A "relational" choice 😊



Jesus-style Evangelism

- = Spreading the Good News
 - "God loves you... and all that God has made!"
 - "God's rule is near", "Jesus is Lord"
- = Doing like Jesus did
 - (a) Being Jesus' apprentice everywhere, all the time
 - (b) valuing (and loving) people like God does
 - (c) being open & honest about God & faith
 - (d) Jesus-style: humble, gentle & vulnerable
- Relationships are the substance of the Kingdom
 - "The medium is the message!"



Five habits of missional people (Michael Frost): BELLS

Live in a way that invites questions?

- **Bless** 3 people this week, at least one non-Christian => More Generous
- **Eat** with 3 people this week, at least one non-Christian => More Hospitable
- **Listen** for the spirit's voice at least once this week => More Spirit-led
- **Learn** about Jesus at least once this week => More Christ-like
- **Sent**: Journal each day how you have been sent => More Missional
 - (or seen/been **Signs** of the Kingdom)

How should we talk about the Kingdom of God?

Answer when asked?

- My Personal Experience...
 - Life & Relationships
 - Hopes, Values & Aspirations
 - God, Prayer & the Spiritual / transcendent
 - Church, The Bible & Traditions
 - Questions, Worries & Doubts
- AND listen to theirs, i.e. ask & listen!
- And try to be attentive to God at the same time
 - (live the Kingdom of God in the conversation)

Encountering God together

Not winning intellectual battles