

THE EVANGELISM MODEL

The Biblical Framework

The Evangelism Model is built upon a theology of evangelism. The following are passages that were foundational in its development or illustrative of its principles.

God: The Master

Purpose: God's Glory (John 17)

Passion: Love for the Lost (Matthew 9:35-38)

Plan: The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

Power: The Holy Spirit (Acts, the whole book, particularly 1:8)

Prayer: Our Dependence (Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; Matthew 9:37-38)

The World: The Masses

The Personal Context

Spiritual Proximity

The Pharisees (contrast Mark 12:34 with Matthew 23, particularly 15, 27)

The Crowds (compare Acts 2:40-41 with Acts 17:16-34)

Spiritual Process

Consider Paul's Life-Story

His upbringing and education (Philippians 3:5)

His life as a Pharisee (Philippians 3:6; Acts 9:1, 2)

His encounter on the road (Acts 9:3-7)

His three days in Damascus (Acts 9:8-9)

His visit by Ananias (Acts 9:10-19)

Consider Timothy's life-story (or others)

The Social Context (John 1:40-51; Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-17; John 4:39-42; Acts 10:24)

The Cultural Context (1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Compare the cultural context and messages of Acts 10:34-43 with 17:16-34)

The Spiritual Context (Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

Believers: The Messengers

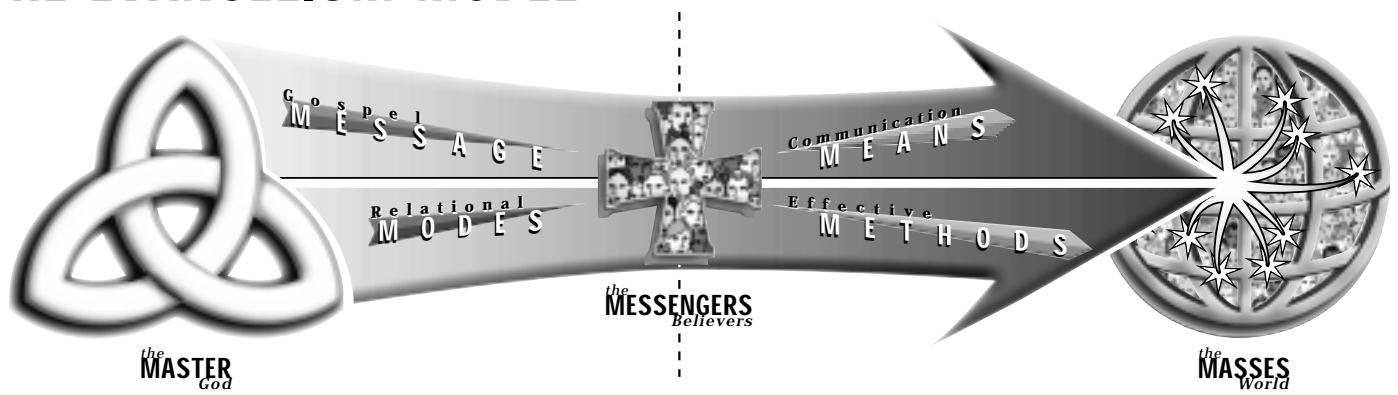
Compare and contrast each of these witnesses (consider their maturity, impact, motivation, message, relationship to audience, etc.)

Lifestyle Witness: The Samaritan Woman (John 4:28-30)

Laborers: The 72 Disciples (Luke 10:1-20)

Leaders: The Apostles (Acts 5:41-42)

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The Gospel Message

The Essence of the Gospel (Compare 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 with Luke 24:45-48)

The Fullness of the Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Luke 24:44 [Old Testament writings]; Romans [and New Testament Epistles])

For a full exposition see: "The Gospel of Jesus Christ: An Evangelical Celebration" (in *Christianity Today*, June 14, 1999, pp. 51-56 or on the Web at <http://www.christianity.net/ct/9T7/9T7049.html>)

The Communication Means

Theologically framed presentations (Acts 2:14-39; Book of Romans)

Life-story or testimonial presentations (John 4:28-30, 39-42; Acts 26)

Historical narratives (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts 7; Acts 13:16-44)

Philosophical arguments (Acts 17:22-31)

Non-historical stories (The Parables; Mark 4:33-34)

Guided conversations (John 3:1-21 ; John 4:7-26)

The Relational Modes

The Body Witness (Acts 2:42ff; John 13:34-35; 17:22-23; 1 Corinthians 11:26)

The Natural Witness (John 1:40-51; 4:28-42; Luke 8:38-39; Colossians 4:5,6; 1 Pet. 3:15)

The Ministry Witness (Mark 1:38, 39; Luke 9:1-66; 10:1-17, Acts 5:41-42; 8:5ff, 26ff; 11:19-21; 11:22-24; 13 and on)

The Effective Methods

The use of the agricultural cycle as a witnessing analogy: Cultivating – Planting – Watering - Reaping

Cultivating: While plowing is not used biblically in witnessing contexts, preparing the land for planting was an assumed agricultural practice (see Luke 9:62)

Planting & watering: 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Planting & reaping: John 4:35-38

Reaping: Matthew 9:37, 38



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