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# LAYING FOUNDATIONS:

## THE WHAT & WHY OF EVANGELISM

### I. WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

#### A. Getting the big picture with the 5 “P’s” of evangelism

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|------|-------------------------|
| 1. P | Matthew 9:37            |
| 2. P | I Thessalonians 1:5     |
| 3. P | Matthew 5:14-16         |
| 4. P | Acts 1:8                |
| 5. P | Acts 17:3; I Peter 3:15 |

#### B. All these together show that evangelism is a P

1. Evangelism and the Metaphor of Agriculture-Jn 4:36,37
2. The importance of seeing evangelism as a process

### II. WHY EVANGELISM?

#### A. Why we don’t

#### B. Why we should

1. **The Love of \_\_\_\_\_:**  
Seen in the witness of Scripture:  
Genesis 12:3, John 3:16, Philippians 2:5-8

Seen in God’s Sovereign initiative in evangelism

2. **The Need of Mankind:**  
Scripture’s unapologetic assessment of humanity  
Ephesians 2 &4,  
2 Corinthians 4:3-4

The question is do we truly see this, when we look at those outside of Christ?

- 3. Our \_\_\_\_\_ and privilege: Tourist or ambassador?**  
2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 3:20, Romans 1:14,15

- 4. The Joy of being a \_\_\_\_\_**

There is a real joy of being a part of something much bigger than ourselves—life on mission is the invitation to be a part of the big thing God is doing.

**C. The Call to Faithfulness**  
**Svea Flood story:**

# PRESENCE:

## THE ART OF BUILDING BRIDGES

### I. INTRO: EVANGELISM IS PRESENCE

#### A. Preaching the gospel without \_\_\_\_\_

Preach the gospel at all time and when necessary use words.

#### B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God with us

Jesus' incarnation, John 1:14, Luke 5:27-32

#### C. Paul's method of reaching the "\_\_\_\_\_"

"Perhaps it is because Paul realized that merely more of the same would be counter-productive. He had come in and reaped. Winning the remainder of those pagan societies required more than words." (Jim Petersen: *Living Proof*)

### II. THE PROBLEM OF ISOLATION

#### A. Three factors to consider:

"Inauthenticity among the ranks of those claiming to be Christians can become and almost insurmountable barrier to belief." (Bill Hybels, *Contagious Christianity*)

"Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel." Philippians 1:27

#### B. An isolated life—locked in the Christian \_\_\_\_\_

"It has been observed that the average Christian has no non-Christian friends after he's been a believer for two years." *Living Proof*, Jim Petersen

*The Wall Street Journal* article entitled "Old Time Religion"

"The current evangelical revival has so far sowed little except curiosity among non-believers...(there is an) historical tendency for evangelicals to shy away from involvement in the secular, sinful world."

Reasons that Christian Ghettos form?

“We simply must escape from the endless run of meetings where Christians talk to themselves, and get out among people who are still strangers to Jesus. When churches are vibrating with life, they do not have a lot of organized midweek activities. Members are expected to use their leisure time to make friends and build relationships that can become bridges to Jesus. But when churches have lost that zeal, all manner of midweek activities emerge--the task of the church has unconsciously changed from reaching unbelievers to entertaining Christians!”--Michael Green, *One to One*

2 Corinthians 6:14-17; I Peter 4:3,4; I Corinthians 15:33

“Our immediate task is not to overturn a culture; it is to gain a favorable hearing for the gospel within that culture.” (Alister McGrath: *How Shall We Reach Them?*)

The results of Christian isolation?

### III. BUILDING BRIDGES

#### A. Beginning with the right \_\_\_\_\_

I Cor. 5:9-13

#### B. Meet them in their \_\_\_\_\_

Join them and visit their places of worship and meaning

#### C. Consider living in \_\_\_\_\_

#### D. Bottom line: Build \_\_\_\_\_ With Pre-Christians

“Evangelism and apologetics are not a matter of intellectual fire-power and technique. They owe a lot more to friendly relationships and laughter, honesty and directness.”  
M. Green

“Evangelism is not merely an activity; it is a way of living.” Jim Petersen

“Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

