

## ROADBLOCKS TO EVANGELISM AT BETHANY BIBLE CHURCH

### A CULTURE OF EVANGELISM

➤ *I do not think programs are the best or even the primary way we should do evangelism. What I do think is that the best outreach happens in a culture of evangelism inside a healthy church.*

1. **A Culture Motivated by Love for Jesus and His Gospel** (2 Corinthians 5:14–15)
2. **A Culture That is Confident in the Gospel** (Romans 1:16)
3. **A Culture That Understands the Danger of Entertainment** (Ezekiel 33:30–32)
4. **A Culture That Sees People Clearly** (Matthew 9:36)
5. **A Culture That Pulls Together as One** (Philippians 1:3–5)
6. **A Culture in Which People Teach One Another** (1 Peter 3:15b; 2 Timothy 1:13)
7. **A Culture That Models Evangelism** (2 Timothy 2:2)
8. **A Culture in Which People Who Are Sharing Their Faith Are Celebrated** (Philippians 2:19–22)
9. **A Culture That Knows How to Affirm and Celebrate New Life** (Colossians 1:3–4)
10. **A Culture Doing Ministry That Feels Risky and is Dangerous** (Philippians 1:12–13; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
11. **A Culture that Understands that the Church is the Chosen and Best Method of Evangelism** (Acts 2:46–47)

## CONNECTING OUR CHURCH TO A CULTURE OF EVANGELISM

- **Foundational Verses** (John 13:35; John 17:20–21)
- **The Local Church is the Gospel Made Visible**
  - God has already built elements into the church to proclaim the gospel'
- **A Culture of Evangelism is grassroots, not top-down.**
- **Defining Church**

### **What the Church Is**

A local church is a gathering of baptized, born-again Christians who covenant together in love to meet regularly under the authority Jesus Christ, the head of the church, of the Scriptures and the leadership to worship God, be a visible image of the gospel, and, ultimately, to give God glory. (John 3:1-8; 13:34-35; Acts 2:41; 14:23; Eph. 3:10; Col. 3:16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 10:24-25)

### **What the Church Does**

A church must do only a few things to be a church:

The people gather regularly in gospel love to hear the Word preached, sing, pray, give, and practice the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Members who have covenanted together lovingly care for one another (1 Cor. 12:12-26).

### **The Mission of the Church**

The church is God's strategic plan for evangelism with one overarching mission: to go to all peoples to make disciples, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe everything Christ has commanded (Matt. 28:18-20).

In response, Mark Devers, in his work on evangelism, suggests that we do twelve things:

- (1) **Pray** – for a desire to witness to Christ, and for the opportunities.
- (2) **Plan** – to witness (who, when, how).
- (3) **Accept** – you are a witness.
- (4) **Understand** – how God uses his witnesses.
- (5) **Be Faithful** – be more concerned to be faithful to God, than for people to like you.
- (6) **Risk** – something! – invite to a meeting; share a book; befriend someone.
- (7) **Prepare** – that's what this course is all about.
- (8) **Look** – keep your eyes open for God's opportunities.
- (9) **Love** – cultivate a genuine love for lost people.
- (10) **Fear** – God, rather than man.
- (11) **Consider** – the greatness of his love to you.