

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course enables the student to place evangelism in theological, psychological, sociological, and ecclesiastical paradigms so that there will be a clearer conception and motivation for evangelism. The course will demonstrate the vital connection between theology and the practice of evangelism in the local church. Careful attention will be given to a Christology of evangelism in the various facets of the church carrying out its mandate.

II. COURSE RATIONALE

The work of evangelism languishes when there is an insufficient foundation. When evangelism theology has been conceptualized and experienced as a living reality evangelism will go forward. The "want to do evangelism" must come before the "how to do evangelism." The primary reason evangelism is stymied is that there is not sufficient theological motivation to carry it out. Pastoral leadership must understand a biblical theology of evangelism in order to translate the impetus which is necessary for the church to be sufficiently concerned for those who are on the outside.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to

- a. Biblically define evangelism.
- b. Clearly argue as to why the church should be intentionally involved in evangelism.
- c. Explain as to why intentional evangelism must be informed and empowered by lifestyle evangelism.
- d. Place a theology of intentional evangelism within a local church context.
- e. Share with the congregation the components of lifestyle evangelism and why they are so important.
- f. Conceptualize an existential theology from the rudiments of psychology so that evangelism may be applied to those who are not part of the Kingdom.
- g. Critique the main methodologies of evangelism that are now being practiced by the local church.

- h. Place his/or her own evangelistic methodology within an historical context by looking at models of evangelism as they have been practiced throughout the U.S.
- i. Conceptualize and facilitate the relationship between the corporate worship service of the local church and evangelism.
- j. Conceptualize and facilitate the relationship between preaching and evangelistic outreach.
- k. Understand why demographics are important in the church's ability to fulfill its evangelistic mission in the local community.
- l. Partially comprehend the place of the electronic church in the work of evangelism, and somewhat prognosticate the future relationship between media and evangelism.
- m. Grasp essential concepts of communicating the gospel in a postmodern world.

IV. ENABLING REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE EVALUATION

- a. Read the following texts:
 - Salter, Darius. American Evangelism: Its Theology and Practice. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.
 - Salter, Darius. America's Bishop: The Life of Francis Asbury. Nappanee, IN: Francis Asbury Press, 2003.
 - Gordon, Wayne. Real Hope In Chicago. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1995.
 - Gunter, Stephen. Considering The Great Commission. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.
 - Lewis, Robert. The Church of Irresistible Influence. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
 - McLaren, Brian. More Ready Than You Realize. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
- b. Research a facet of evangelism that has been reviewed in class and give a cogent argument as to the importance of that facet, e.g., definition, structure, psychology, sociology, lifestyle, a methodology, etc. This project should be submitted in the form of a very carefully and clearly written documented 10-15 page double spaced paper. The thesis will be graded on the criteria of cogency, authority, documentation, and knowledge inventory. The paper is due on **Dec. 12**.
- c. Read America's Bishop: The Life of Francis Asbury, Nappanee, Indiana: Francis Asbury Press, 2003. Asbury may

have been the most numerically successful evangelist to ever live in the United States. How did Asbury define evangelism? What was the relationship between evangelism and pastoral care? State a succinct theology for Asbury's evangelism. Is it possible to be numerically successful and ethically consistent? Should evangelism participate in secular political processes or separate from them? How would you state Asbury's philosophy of evangelistic leadership? What is the relationship between ecclesiology and evangelism? How does one discern the demarcation between the work of the "flesh" and the work of the "Spirit?" These and many other questions are raised by the book. Be ready to discuss in class.

- d. Write a two page critique of McLaren. Agree and Disagree.
- e. Write a one page theology of Wayne Gordon's ministry.
- f. Reflecting on The Irresistible Church, how can your church build a bridge to your community? Write one page.
- g. Write a one paragraph response to each chapter In Considering The Great Commission as scheduled in class.
- h. The course grade will be based on the following: 1/3 daily assignment, 1/3 participation in class, and 1/3 research paper.

V. COURSE SCHEDULE

- Sept. 12 Introduction to Course
Defining Evangelism
Evangelism and Christology
- Sept. 19 Theological Energy for Evangelism
Message, Motives and Mission
Gunter-Chapter One
Gordon
- Sept. 26 Historical Methodologies in America
Review of Francis Asbury
Gunter-Chapter Two
- Oct. 3 A Psychology of Evangelism
Gunter-Chapter Three
- Oct. 10 Visit Neighborhood
Gunter-Chapter Four
Lewis
- Oct. 24 A Theological Critique of the Five Most Used Methodologies
Gunter-Chapter Five
- Oct. 31 A Theology of Evangelism and Worship
Gunter-Chapter Six
- Nov. 7 Characteristics of Christ's Ministry and Churches That Take Them Seriously
Gunter-Chapter Seven

- Nov. 14 Ecclesiology and Leadership
Gunter-Chapter Eight
- Nov. 21 Electronic Church and Evangelism
Gunter-Chapter Nine
McLaren
- Nov. 28 Lifestyle Evangelism
Gunter-Chapter Ten
- Dec. 5 Characteristics of the Evangelistic Pastor
The Secular Person - Future Trends
Gunter-Chapter Eleven

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