

BETHANY: Some Final Thoughts

Bible

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Purpose | Inspired, Correcting, Training in righteousness

Attitude | Circle of Orthodoxy, “The proof of our imperfection is that we disagree on the Bible (John Wesley)”

Concerns | Pluralism, Lack of absolutes

Evangelism

Acts 1:8, Luke 19:10

Who is in Bethany’s “Jerusalem”?

Millennials | Authenticity, Warmth, Depth & coherence

Training

Ephesians 4:11-12

Equipping

Work of the ministry

Holiness

1 Peter 1:14-15, Romans 12:2

Abide

**John 15:5, John 15:4, Romans 14:23, Hebrews 11:6,
Proverbs 16:9**

Peter Drucker studied 700 groups including 315 churches:

	<u>Non-Profits</u>		<u>For Profits</u>
Planning	5%		31%
Problem-solving	61%		11%

“A prayerful search for God’s mind on future ministry”

Nicodemus

John 3:3

You

Corporately:

Robert Dale, To Dream Again:

1. At 20 years, most churches begin to plateau and then decline.
2. Decline happens because churches grow comfortable.
3. The “good old” days become more important than tomorrow.
4. The ministry wants guarantees, not risks.
5. Meeting the needs of the members snuffs out vision for the lost.

Personally:

Iowa State University (Bowen & Beal):

Innovators -- 2.5%
Early Adopters -- 13.5%
Early Majority -- 34%
Late Majority -- 34%
Laggards -- 16%

Questions for Discussion and Further Reflection

1. Do you have a personal “Circle of Orthodoxy”? How do you handle doctrine outside of your circle?
2. Why is displaying Christlikeness so radical in our society? Almost everyone embraces the love of God. Why is the truth of God harder for people to embrace?
3. John quoted the line: “If we can do it under our own power, than it’s not faith.” What does it mean to you to live out your faith not under your own power?
4. Regarding Peter Drucker’s study: Why is a planning mindset better than a problem-solving mindset in terms of organizational leadership?
5. How does a church adequately strike a balance between meeting the needs of its members and implementing a vision for the lost?

BETHANY: Some Final Thoughts

Bible

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Purpose

Inspired, God-breathed
Correcting
Training in righteousness

Attitude

Circle of Orthodoxy

Eternal Security

God is Perfect.
Jesus is Divine.

Baptism

Women in Leadership

The Bible is Inspired.
The Trinity.

Tongues

Reform Theology

Salvation by Faith,
through Grace.

Tithing

"The proof of our imperfection is that we disagree on the Bible."

John Wesley

Concerns

Pluralism
Lack of absolutes

Bible Evangelism

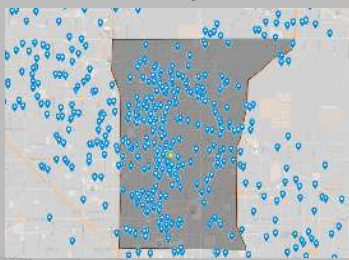
"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 19:10

Who is in Bethany's "Jerusalem"?



Who is in Bethany's "Jerusalem"?

- 30 Square Miles
- 170,000 People
- 52% Caucasian
- 35% Hispanic
- 6% African/African American
- 4% Native American
- 3% Asian
- 40,000 say they are Christians

Millennials

Authenticity
Warmth
Depth & coherence

Bible
Evangelism
Training

"So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Ephesians 4:11-12

Equipping

Work of the Ministry

Bible
Evangelism
Training
Holiness

"...be holy, because I am holy..."

1 Peter 1:14-15

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds..."

Romans 12:2

Bible
 Evangelism
 Training
 Holiness
 Abide

"I am the vine, you are the branches..."
 John 15:5
 "...no branch can bear fruit by itself..."
 John 15:4

"...everything that does not come from faith is sin."
 Romans 14:23
 "Without faith it is impossible to please God..."
 Hebrews 11:6

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"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."
 Proverbs 16:9
 "A prayerful search for God's mind on future ministry"

Bible
 Evangelism
 Training
 Holiness
 Abide
 Nicodemus

"...you must be born again...."
John 3:3

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