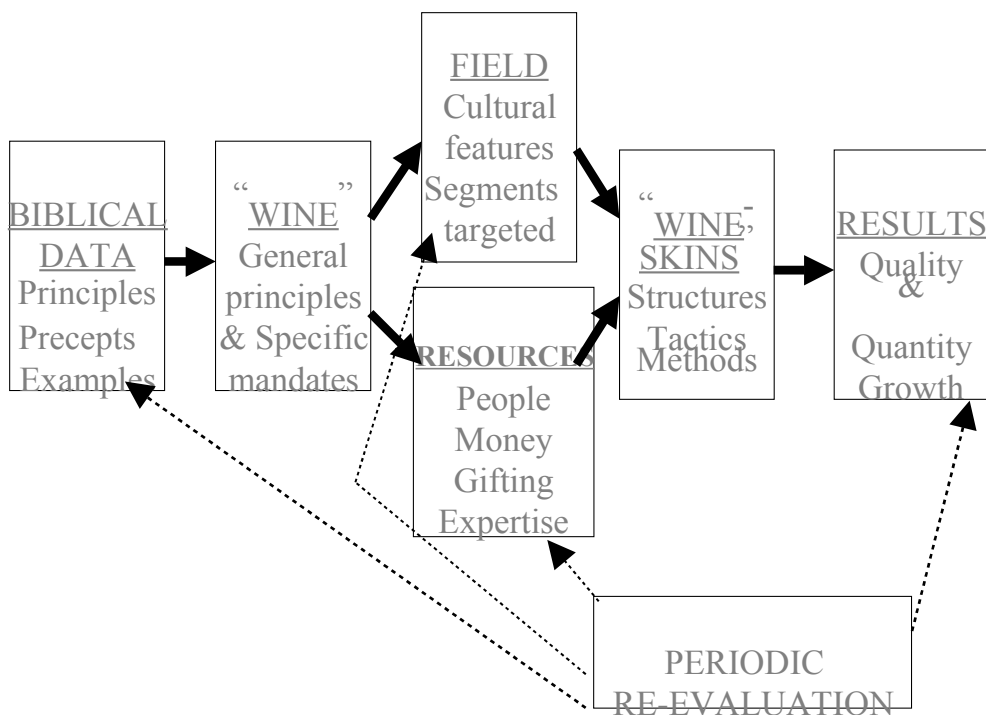


**Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Leadership 1
Ecclesiology 1
Week 2 - The Mission and Function of the Church**

Introduction

“...traditionalism is a factor that shows one of the highest significant negative correlations with church growth.” (p. 14, Schwarz)

How do we create a structure for the local church?



"Biblical Data"

- **Principles** refer to descriptive doctrinal statements about the nature of the church which have universal relevance.

- **Precepts** refer to specific commands addressed to the whole church.

- **Examples** are examples of ways the New Testament church gave expression to scriptural precepts and principles.

"Wine" refers to what God's program is through the church.

"Field" refers to that segment of our culture which God has called us to reach for Christ.

"Resources" refers to such things as people, spiritual gifts, money, facilities, reputation, knowledge, time, etc.

"Wineskins" refers to the present tactics of the church--especially the structures and methods employed to carry out that strategy.

- On the one hand,

- On the other hand,

"Results" refers to the extent to which the church is accomplishing its mission.

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; 9:31; 16:5.

"Periodic Re-evaluation" refers to the necessity of reflection and change in church tactics, structure and methods.

"Wine" part 1: Central Mission of the Church

If you were to ask members of various churches "what is the *central* mission of the church?" what answers might you expect?

Key Passages

- John 20:21 "Jesus therefore said to them again, 'Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'"

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

John 3:17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him."

Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

- John 17: 15 I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to this world any more than I do. 17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. 18 Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. 19 And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. 20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

John 13:34,35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the

Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- 2 Corinthians 5:15-20 "And He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died and rose again on their behalf. . . Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."
- Ephesians 4:11-16 "And he gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him, who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."
- 1 Peter 2:9-10 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

Summary: To reach lost people for Christ and bring them into a loving community where they can become mature disciples of Christ.

Therefore, the central mission of the Church is Evangelism & Discipleship in the context of Christian Community

Discussion Questions:

What are some of the negative results when local churches stray from this central mission?

How does a local church stay on track with this central mission?

Schwarz Materials (last week's handout & assignment)

“Wine” and “Wineskins” Workshop

Instructions

- Read each passage and determine if it is precept, principle, or example.
- Discuss and list the structures in Xenos (at large) and in your home church that facilitate this ministry.
- Also include the antithesis: “If this is NOT present in Xenos or the home church, how is the home church affected?”
- Have one person present your findings (3-4 minutes).

1. Evangelism

Scripture - 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Mt. 28:19-20

Structural Provisions in home group & Xenos

2. Bible Teaching

Scripture - ; Hebrews 5:12-14; Acts 2:42, 19:9, 20:18-21; 1 Tim. 5:17; 2 Timothy 4:2, 3

Structural Provisions in home group & Xenos

3. Counseling (formal and *ad hoc*)

Scripture - Rom. 15:14; 1 Cor. 12:8; Col. 3:16; Col. 1:28,29

Structural Provisions in home group & Xenos

4. Leadership Training

Scripture - 2 Timothy 2:2; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 3:14; Ephesians 4:12

Structural Provisions in home group & Xenos

5. Discipline (formal church discipline)

Scripture - 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15; Matthew 18:15-17

Structural Provisions in home group & Xenos

6. Caring for the Poor (formal and *ad hoc*)

Scripture - Galatians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 5:3-10; Matthew 25:3-46; Galatians 2:10; Acts 11:29

Structural Provisions in home group & Xenos

7. Prayer

Scripture - Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2-3; Rom. 15:30; 2 Cor. 1:11

Structural Provisions in home group & Xenos

8. Missions

Scripture - Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 13:2-3; Matthew 24:14

Structural Provisions in home group & Xenos

Conclusion

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Assignment

Read Master Plan of Evangelism Chap 1 (“Selection”) and write a paragraph summary of content and a paragraph of personal application.

Read the articles by: Burge and Elkins and hand in a short written critique of each.

Study for Quiz

Memory Verses

Mt. 28:18-20**

Eph. 4:11-16 **

Key Points to Know for Exam

1. Be able to diagram the biblical methodology for determining church structure. Be able to defend why this methodology is important.
2. Know what "wine" and "wineskins" are.
3. Be able to argue for the central mission of the church as “evangelism and discipleship in the context of Christian community” using Scripture to back up your argument.