

The Three Relational Modes of Evangelism

	Ministry	Natural	Body
Definition			
Biblical Examples			
Advantages			
Disadvantages			
Keys to Success			
What could this look like?			

Beginning convo:

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to share our faith. Many people and organizations have gotten caught up in arguments over how to do evangelism the right way. These conflicts do more to divide the body more than anything else...

How did you guys come to Christ?

- Family, friend, Cru, Survey

What has helped you continue to grow in your relationship with Christ?

Intro 3 modes:

The Bible shows us three main ways in which a person comes to Christ.

Ministry: Taking the gospel to people with whom we don't have an established relationship (Taking the gospel to those we don't know.)

- "there are many people who are neither near enough to a body of believers to be impacted by body witness, nor in relationship or contact with any healthy believer to be impacted by their natural witness. The only way these individuals can be reached is through the ministry mode of evangelism.
- Examples:
 - Paul.
 - Philip and Ethiopian-Acts 8: 26-40
 - Jesus preached in new towns- Mark 1:38-39
 - Jesus sent out the 72- Luke 10:1-17
- Advantages and Disadvantages of this mode?
 - Advantages:
 - Scope: very wide. The gospel can make it to those who don't know a Christian.
 - Training and comfort for other modes
 - Many unbelievers have no friends willing to share the gospel with them
 - Do not make them come to us. Many kinds of people would not come to a Christian gathering!
 - This mode provides a real-life context for modeling, training and discipleship in evangelism
 - Disadvantages
 - Takes extra work to plug new believer into a body
 - May or may not be able to do follow-up
- Keys to Success
 - Training
 - Going to new areas/people groups
 - The outside must get inside
- How do you see this in our movement?
 - Beginning of the year Outreach (new pledges, freshmen moving into dorms)
 - Other opportunities throughout the semester
 - The airplane ride idea

Natural: Taking the gospel to people we already know

- Example:
 - With the first disciples, Andrew brought his brother Peter to Jesus, and Philip brought his friend

Nathanael (John 1:40-51).

- o The Samaritan woman told her whole town about her encounter with Jesus (John 4:28-42).
- o The exorcised man from the Gerasenes went home and told his friends how much Jesus had done for him (Mark 5:19-20).

- Advantages and disadvantages?

- o Advantages

- o Level of trust because of established relationship
- o Lots of conversations
- o A new believer has another believer to help them grow, plug them in
- o Historically the gospel has often spread along relational lines. While the gospel may initially penetrate a group through initiative evangelism, it permeates the group through relationships.

- o Disadvantages

- o Scope: low. Gospel can only get to those who know a Christian, and a Christian who shares his faith.
- o Risky. Many Christians hesitate to share the gospel with people close to them because they fear damaging the relationship.
- o It is difficult to effectively equip the church in the practical “how-to’s” of evangelism in this mode, because it’s normally unpredictable, process-oriented, and drawn out (takes time).

- Keys to Success

- o The insider must take steps
- o Christians must know lost people
- o Christians must know the gospel and be able to explain it
- o Testimony!! Learn how to share your testimony in the context of real conversations.
- o Know how to clearly communicate the gospel
 - 4 laws
 - one verse: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23
 - Sometime campaign- “Some time I’d love to hear...”

- How do you see this in our movement?

- o Initiating with people in class
- o Friend in dorm
- o Sorority sister or fraternity brother
- o Friend from line camp
- o Initiate a meal, a coffee
- o Friend back home, family member

Body: Someone coming to Christ through the corporate witness of a body of believers

- Examples

- o Unbelievers will know we are Christ’s disciples by our love for one another (John 13:35).
- o Acts 2 Church

- Advantages and Disadvantages?

- o Advantages

- There’s a higher rate of integration into the church – if they are already connecting to

the church body, they won't face as many the obstacles to becoming a member after conversion.

- If a new person comes to a Christian gathering, they are probably already actively seeking or they have a Christian friend.
- It's not as hard to share the gospel with someone who is already interested enough to come to a Christian activity.
- Disadvantages
 - Scope: low. Gospel can only get to those who know a lot of Christians in a local body.
 - Usually people come into contact with the church through the two modes of evangelism (see Figure 1), so evangelism must precede for the body witness to have it's effect.
- Keys to Success
 - Healthy body
 - Body provides opportunities to meet and incorporate new people
- How do you see this in your movement?

Why is it important to acknowledge these three modes?

- Theology-> Philosophy->Methodology = Action
- We need all three! All of these modes add to each other. Can any of you see a combination of these modes in your coming to Christ?

What are your thoughts about this? How does this change your thinking?

Which modes are you comfortable with? In which areas do you need improvement?