

Session I

Sounding the Alarm (our reality):

- Several experts suggest that 97% of American Christians do not openly share their faith with others.
- Very few believers and current church members can identify in the same church a fellow church member who was instrumental in leading them to Christ, revealing the fact that few Christians have actually added to their own church new believers through their witness (crisis of barren sheep).
- Several experts suggest that 50% of all evangelical pastors and church leaders in America will die without ever personally leading someone to Christ outside the church structure and context.

- **Current Facts:**

(the following list has been adapted from Will McRaney's "This Cannot Be Your Father's Evangelism & Why" 2001)

1. The Church in America is failing at our mission (the Great Co-Mission)
 2. We live in a radically different culture
 3. People no longer share a common story
 4. People now perceive and determine truth in different ways
 5. People no longer believe in absolute truth as determined by others
 6. Lost people are more negative toward church than in the past
 7. Lost people are further from a true understanding of God than in the past
 8. We live in a post-Christian and pre-Christian culture, not a Christian culture (no home court advantage)
 9. Christians have an identity and image problem (Christianity means everything and nothing)
 10. People perceive themselves as spiritual and therefore not in need of the church
 11. The church has little to no perceived value in the lives of many lost people
 12. People's approaches to life have changed and our methods have not
 13. Much of conservative Christianity's evangelism has been built upon one-time encounters and memorized presentations, an approach effective only in a highly homogeneous culture.
- We are in a battle, an actual spiritual war where the eternal destiny of generations is at stake. In many respects we are acting as though we are in a time of peace. On other fronts we are fighting the wrong enemy. The challenge is to storm the gates of hell with the only message that can rescue people from the most horrific thought and reality – an eternal separation from God...
 - If this tragedy (the sin of silence) continues, the words from the Book of Judges will repeat themselves, *"After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel."* Judges 2:10

Why evangelism? (sharing our faith with the lost by any means necessary to clearly communicate the good news of Jesus Christ that has become a reality in our own lives)

GOD'S DESIRE

Fellowship

MAN'S CONDITION

Separation

GOD'S PROVISION

The Cross

OUR COMMISSION

Make Disciples

Two Prominent Approaches to Evangelism

INFORMATIONAL

informing
telling
obvious
presentable
factual
educator / teacher

INCARNATIONAL

showing
being
subtle
personable
cordial
servant / friend

Is one more biblical than the other?

Is one more Christ-like than the other?

Is one more effective than the other?

What are the potential dangers of either one?

Which are you more naturally prone to do?

Which was more instrumental to leading you to the point of realizing you needed to be saved?