

A Balanced Ministry: Evangelism, Discipleship, and Benevolence

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The premise of this topic is that true evangelism leads to discipleship, true discipleship leads to benevolence, and true benevolence is the gateway to more evangelism. This is a biblical and effective means of fulfilling the Great Commission.

I. A Ministry Paradigm – key word: Balance (Acts 2, 4, & 5)

- A. A balanced ministry is one that gives equal value to evangelism, discipleship, and benevolence.
- B. A ministry philosophy that recognizes each of these components is necessary for fulfilling the Great Commission.
- C. This is a New Testament model of ministry.

II. A Ministry Process – key word: Behavior (Ephesians 2:10)

- A. A balanced ministry is intentional in its development and function.
- B. Ministry action/behavior is deliberate, purposeful, and planned.
- C. Ministry is viewed as an on-going process and not an event.
 - 1. Evangelism – Reaching (Mark 16:15)
 - 2. Discipleship – Becoming (Matthew 28:19)
 - 3. Benevolence – Serving (Matthew 25:40)

III. A Ministry Practice – key word: Benevolence (Matthew 25:35-40)

- A. Benevolence - defined as, a desire to do good to others; an act of kindness.
 - 1. In the context of ministry, benevolence can be defined as demonstrating God's love and compassion through meeting the needs of people.
 - 2. Through ministries that meet needs, you establish credibility, rapport, and responsiveness with people who would resist or ignore words without deeds.

- B. Common names given to this function of benevolent ministry:
Servant
Evangelism and Ministry Related Evangelism.
1. Benevolence is a practice of ministry that builds a bridge over which the gospel can travel.
 2. Doors of salvation open through service.
 3. Barriers to the gospel are removed when people are served and blessed.
- C. People groups that can be served through a benevolent ministry:
1. The Poor
 2. Children/Orphans
 3. Widows/Widowers
 4. Single Parents
 5. Prisoners
 6. Sick/Disabled
 7. Your neighbor
- D. How does a benevolent ministry function? It functions by ministering to a world in need, one person at a time.
1. Biblical Example: The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-35).
 2. View the ministry need/opportunity as helping one person at a time.

Conclusion:

The famed psychiatrist Karl Menninger defined health as the “vital balance.” Evangelism, discipleship, and benevolence create a vital ministry balance that results in a healthy growing church.