

A Balanced Ministry: Evangelism, Discipleship, and Benevolence

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Scriptural Lessons: Acts 2:42-47, Acts 4:24, 31-35, Acts 5:17-18, 27-29, 40-42

I. Evangelism Must Be Intentional.

- A. The Model for Church Ministry is given in Acts 2, 4, and 5
- B. The First Church was characterized by seven core passions:
 - 1. Intimate worship
 - 2. Faith based conversations
 - 3. Intentional spiritual growth
 - 4. Servanthood
 - 5. Resource investment
 - 6. Spiritual friendships
 - 7. Family faith
- C. The First Christians were intentional about outreach.
 - 1. They understood that reaching the lost was not the partial task of the church but the total task of the whole church.
 - 2. Evangelism was the natural outgrowth of a healthy church that understood the nature of the Gospel.
 - 3. Evangelism, if it is to be effective, must have intentionality.

II. Discipleship Begins With Evangelism and Evangelism Facilitates Discipleship.

- A. The primary goal of the Church is to bring people into a relationship with God and then build people to become Christ followers.
- B. Winchester Church of God model:
 - 1. Evangelism is seen as bringing people into relationship with God.

2. Discipleship is defined as bringing people into a mature relationship with Christ.
3. We do that in the following method:
 - Ministry 101 – Intentional training to connect new believers with Christ, His family, and His ministry.
 - Discipleship 201
 1. 8 week class taught by Ministry Staff on the basics of the faith.
 2. Small groups available with a “Free Market” approach
 - Ministry 301 – Leadership training for small group leadership and church ministry involvement.

III. Benevolence Is The Heart of God Beating Through His People.

- A. The First Church was characterized by care.
 - Acts 2:44-45
⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.
- B. The First Church was constrained by Christ’s love.
 - Acts 2:46
⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts...
- C. The First Church was connected through its charitableness.
 - Acts 2:47
⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.
- D. The goal of our church is not to grow a church with a Care Ministry, but a church that ministers with care.
- E. Care ministry is not a philosophy, it is a theology.

The church that is committed to evangelism (bringing people into a relationship with God) will invariably have the challenge of discipleship (bringing people into a mature relationship with Christ) which will inevitably lead to a benevolent heart and outflow. And when a church truly cares, caring ministry opens doors to evangelism; this is the *Winning Circle*.