

## MIN123 - THE LOCAL CHURCH in EVANGELISM

### STUDY GUIDE - ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

In Scripture and in history, in every culture, effective evangelism usually depends on effective PRE-evangelism: relationships with family, friends, and community.

Believers and churches should focus first on their local community (their Jerusalem), then on their region (their Judea), on people unlike them (their Samaria), and finally on helping reach to the ends of the Earth.

The controlling verb of the Great Commission is “make disciples” - making effective discipleship the top priority of the church.

In the Great Commission, the word “go” is a participle best translated “as you are going”, meaning believers and the church are always moving outward to reach new people and make disciples.

Effective evangelism, in the life of a believer or a church, flows from effective discipleship.

Evangelism is not complete until the “convert” is disciplined - taught how to understand and obey Christ’s commands and the word of God as they follow Jesus.

Who you ARE will either undercut or underscore what you SAY.

Your WITNESS must be consistent with your WORK and your WAYS.

Your character, lifestyle, and personality will either add great weight to what you say or will empty your witness of all power.

Believers are born - regenerated - by the Holy Spirit, but disciples are made by other disciples, by God’s people and God’s leaders.

NOT every believer is called to preach on street corners or even be constantly speaking a gospel witness.

Every believer is called to live a life of obedience to God’s Word in the power of the Holy Spirit, life of love that shows Jesus to the lost.

Every believer is commanded to be ready to share the gospel whenever anyone asks why we are so different in the way we live and love.

Every believer is called to be ready to support the evangelistic / discipleship ministries of the local church in labor and in giving.

Even though it is not in the best and earliest manuscripts, Mark 16:9-20 can be considered authoritative because the similar command is found in the other gospels and Acts, and because it was accepted as canonical by the early Church.

Believers and churches should take a long-term view of evangelism, taking the time to build relationships with unbelievers.

Believers and local churches must take a long-term view of evangelism, and by their acts of kindness, compassion, and service eventually break up the hard ground and resistant hearts of their community.

Believers and local churches must take a long-term view of evangelism, and by their acts of kindness, compassion, and service plant seeds of gospel proclamation, water those seeds, and someday reap a harvest.

Proselytizing people from healthy churches to attend and join your church is NOT evangelism, and is almost always wrong and unethical.

In America, particularly in heavily churching areas like the South, Christians often play “musical chairs” with their churches, changing churches based on their desires, feelings, and selfishness.

Proselytizers and proselytes are usually more formed by America’s culture of individualism, selfishness, and consumerism than by the biblical values of covenant loyalty and Christ-likeness.

Some churches consider the members of other churches to be their primary “mission field”, planning events, creating programs, and hiring staff to attract existing Christians in other churches.

God’s word describes the local church as a Close-knit Community of Covenant Keeping Love, and he expects his people to be in covenant with, and to be loyal to, their local church.

All outreach events and programs should be focused on reaching lost, unchurched, or de-churched (non-attending) people.

Local church evangelism should be based on Scripture, discipleship, and outreach ministries and events planned by the local church.

The biblical ministry of evangelist was based out of local churches and reached out to the lost, and was not a ministry of “revivals” preached by traveling preachers to existing churches and believers.

