

Vanessa Castor
CS502: Church as a Social and Cultural Institution
Dr. Stanley John
Summary: Holistic Mission by C. René Padilla

Holistic Mission is the integration vertical and horizontal dimensions of expressing God's love in mission-evangelism and social action. Padilla shares the statement from the Lausanne Covenant from the Lausanne Congress shares some changes in the evangelical mission theology to include social as well as evangelistic responsibility. There was pressure from conservative evangelical circles there were statements form "Statement on Simple Lifestyle," "Statement of Concern for the Future of the LCWE," and "Statement on Transformation: The Church in Response to Human Need." which finally was the historical milestone in the understanding of holistic mission from the evangelical perspective. The biblical basis for holistic mission is first to demonstrate God's love, not just talk about it. Also is the human being is a unity of body, soul, and spirit which are inseparable. The third approach is to show the integration of Jesus life and ministry, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension into our continued mission to share Jesus's redemptive work. Padilla notes that not every church, is fit to become involved in holistic mission and that the meaning of caring and inclusive communities needs to be spelled out in practical terms to be recognized in its own neighborhood.

In Christopher Wright's *Biblical Theology for Life: The Mission of God's People*, he shares the quote from Lausanne Theology Working Group affirming that there is a biblical vision of human prospering, and that the Bible includes material welfare (both health and wealth) within its teaching about the blessing of God. Not that it's measured in material wealth, but that we must not separate material and spiritual. I believe Jesus showed us holistic missions when he was with the disciples and even when he asked the disciples to cast their net to the other side of

the boat in John 21:6. Or even with the story of the two fish and five loaves and Jesus fed the thousands in John 6.