

Relational Evangelism

*and articulating your testimony
of faith*

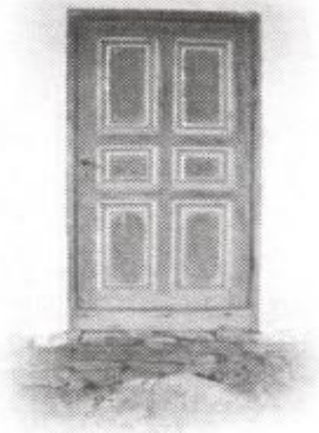
*The Gospel: the good news,
the divine message of salvation in
Christ Jesus*



*Evangelism: the
communication of that
message*

So, how is that done?

**“Jesus?
Never heard
of him.”**



Think about it.
You could make the introduction.



*Isn't "presence evangelism"
enough?*

Evangelistic approaches

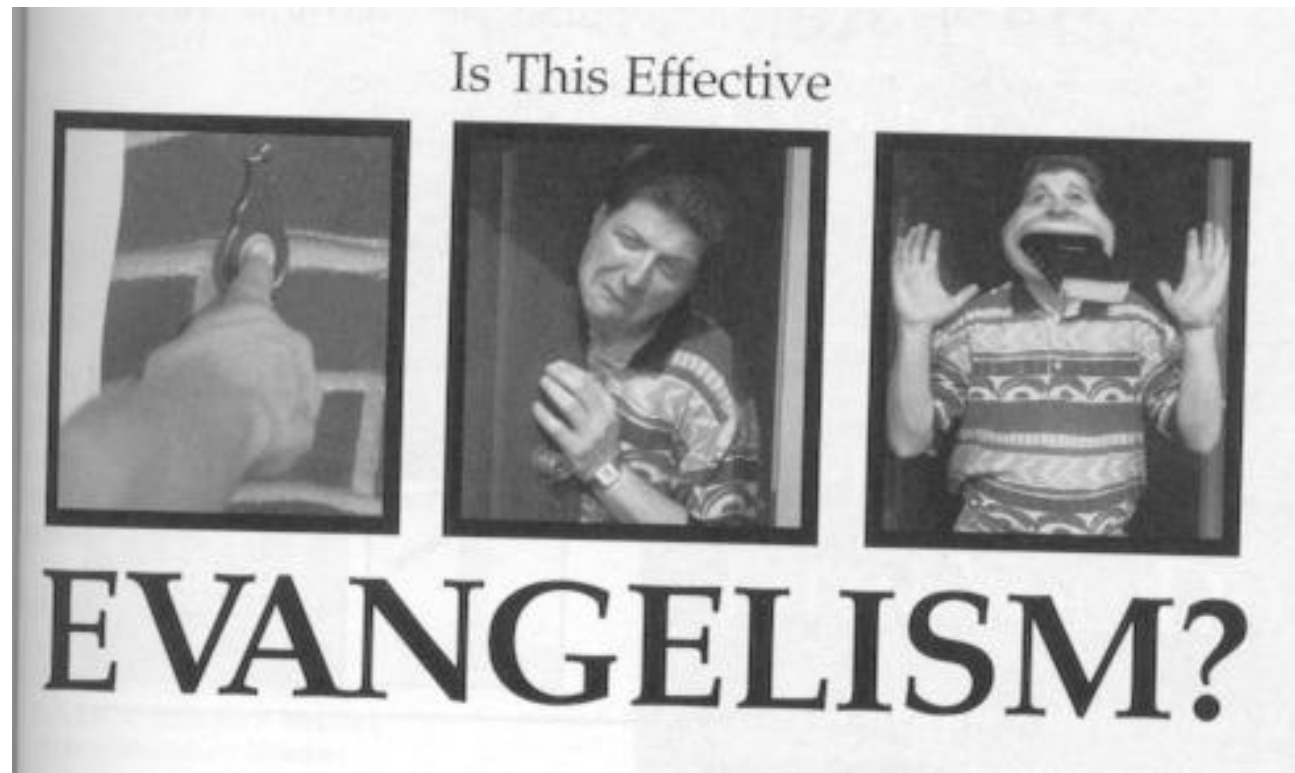


In large group s

- *Invitations in local church services*
- *Huge events*

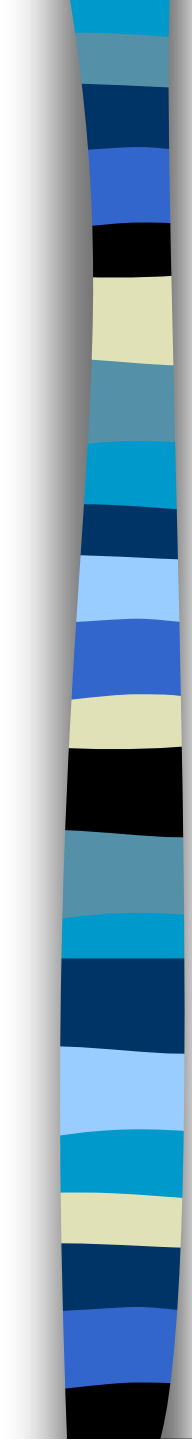
One on one

*Does personal evangelism
have to feel so impositional?*



*Sharing your faith shouldn't be hard
on your neighbor's dental work*

Graphic from an ad for Asbury Theological Seminary



*"Faith does, on occasion, arise --
partly because of us and partly in
spite of us" -- Brueggemann*



One on one evangelistic approaches

- *Cup of cold water - expressing tangibly who Christ is*
- *Invitational - "come with me"*
- *Apologetic - point by point logic*
- *Testimonial -*
 - *"One thing I do know: I was blind but now I see"*
- *Relational - friendships*



Relational evangelism

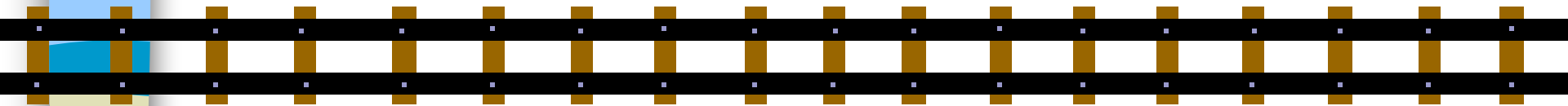
- *Evangelism that is intentional about bringing the Good News to someone in the context of a relationship*
- *A majority of believers have come to faith in the context of a network of friends and family*

Relational ministry isn't a monorail event in which content is the only issue



Relational evangelism's two rails

- *Content (Gospel)*
- *Incarnational (Our lives)*



So, what's incarnational about it?

- *The unbeliever comes to see Christ through His incarnation in the believer*



» *Latin lesson: incarnation = "to make flesh; infleshment"*

The content rail Gospel definition

- *Example gospel presentations*
 - *Evangelism explosion*
 - *God, Human beings, sin, grace, salvation*
 - *Four spiritual laws*
 - *Roman road*
 - *Gospel bracelets*



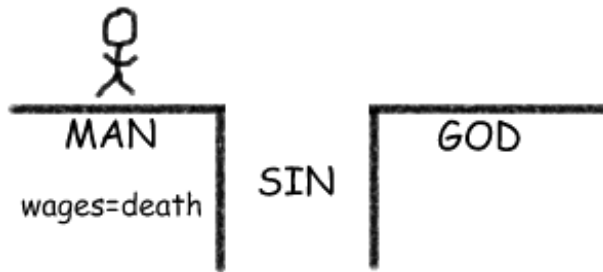
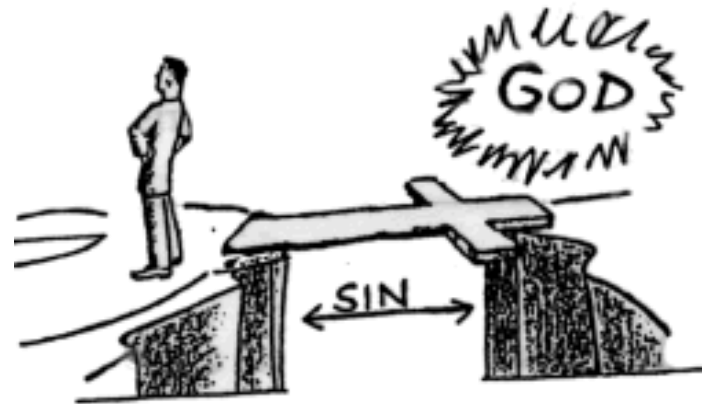
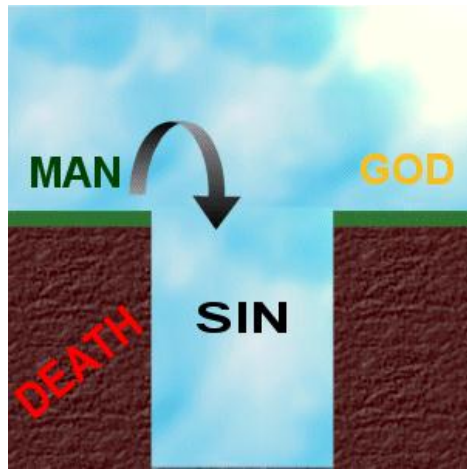
Incarnational rail

Content rail

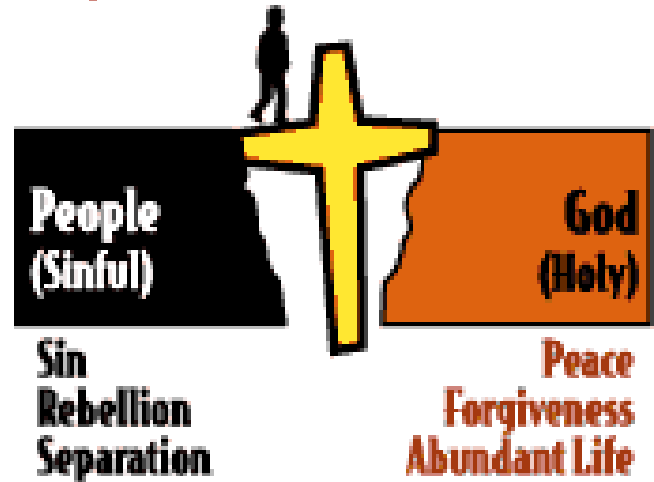


Four spiritual laws

- *God loves you and wants to establish a relationship with you*
 - *John 3:16*
- *Sin separates you from God*
 - *Romans 3:23; 6:23*
- *Jesus is the "bridge"*
 - *Romans 5:8*
- *You must come to Christ and accept His lordship*
 - *Romans 10:9-10*



Are you here... or here?





Roman Road

- *Romans 3:23*
- *Romans 6:23*
- *Romans 5:8*
- *Romans 10:9-10*

The incarnational rail

- *"We have souls that thrive in the warmth of kindred spirits. . . . God wired us this way, and because of that wiring we have the capacity for relationships" -
-Doug Fields*



Incarnational rail

Content rail

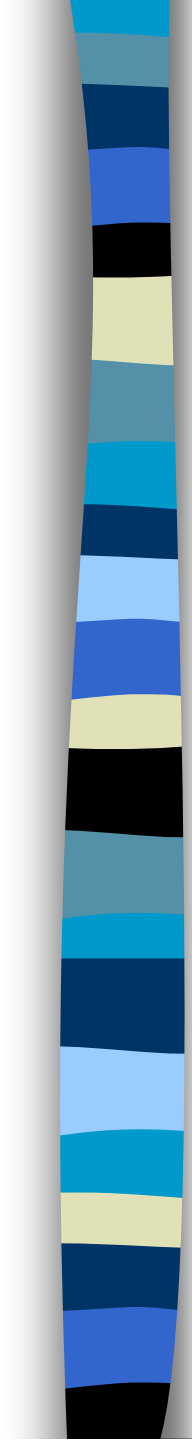
Relational or incarnational evangelism:

- *Is step-by-step (but not the step-by-step of the prophetic "the Bible says" approach)*
 - *Evangelism strategist George Hunter:*
 - *"Conversion typically results from a 'chain' of experiences. The number of significant experiences in that chain is typically about 30 links."*
 - *Relational evangelism creates those links*



*What were the links in
your life?*





Relational or incarnational evangelism:

- 1. Its intentional focus on friendship places a high value on people*
 - 1. "Every person has a right to hear the Gospel in a way that they can understand" - Jim Rayburn, Young Life*
- 2. Earns you the right to be heard*
 - 1. Relationship produces:*
 - 1. Respect*
 - 2. A sense of safety*
 - 3. Conviction that you care*

■ *Recognizes God's prevenient grace is always present*



- *Latin lesson: pre-venir = grace that "comes before"*
- *The Lord goes before us and prepares the way*



Relational or incarnational evangelism:

- *An intentional transforming journey*
 - *A process that often takes patience*



The listening part of relational evangelism



- *Listen. Listen. Listen . . . And really hear.*





Relational speech

- *Be simple*

- Never ***underestimate*** other people's intelligence
- Never ***overestimate*** their knowledge

Relational speech

- *Makes Christ central*
 - *"My propositional truths are more correct than your propositional truths"*
- *Looks to take conversation to a deeper level*
 - *"Wouldn't you like to believe in something?"*
 - *"Does God (or a Higher Power) seem personal to you?"*



Where relational evangelism can go wrong



■ *Wrong motivations*

- Notch on the gun

- An extremely thin covering of "relational" on our evangelism*

- Ego trip

- Examples?



Where relational evangelism can go wrong

- *Losing sight of the goal*
 - *The human relationship becomes the end*
 - *"It makes me a little queasy to think about all the junk that gets tossed our way in the name of 'relational evangelism'" -- Art Rogers*



Where relational evangelism can go wrong

- *Assuming our "presence" is enough -
never using the content rail*
 - *Danger: Giving the impression that we
are the source of our spiritual life*



"I'm not going to suggest a new formula, because . . . techniques aren't the most effective, especially for friends.

"Have you ever thought of looking more deeply at the life of Jesus?"

"If you live by the same priorities and values that He had, you will find evangelism happening naturally. It becomes a lifestyle and not a project."

Out of the Saltshaker, by Becky Pippert



Prayer must blanket incarnational evangelism

- *Prayer for:*
 - *Communicator*
 - *transparency*
 - *Message*
 - *clarity*
 - *Recipient*
 - *responsiveness*
- *Fasting and Prayer*