

These are my personal notes, so don't judge me for the poor grammar...



Being Outward: How? Let's get creative!

Week 2 Notes

Last week we looked at Jesus' incarnation and mission and how that leads us to be outward focused. While the previous class we explored WHY we should be outward focused, this week we are discussing HOW we can be outward focused.

Platonic Dualism



Too often we rely on a dualistic paradigm that sees spiritual and secular as two different spheres and we assume that we need to bring people out of their context and into the church in order for them to experience Jesus.

Key Concept:

Dualistic Paradigm
vs.
Missional Paradigm

Let's briefly explore what I mean by a dualistic paradigm. Platonic Dualism sees the world separated into spiritual and non-spiritual, secular and sacred spheres. The idea that would've been considered heresy to the Hebrew authors who said that the Lord is Lord over everything, became popular through the influence of Augustine, and other early church theologians. Why we reject Dualism intellectually, we still embody the philosophy in practical ways.

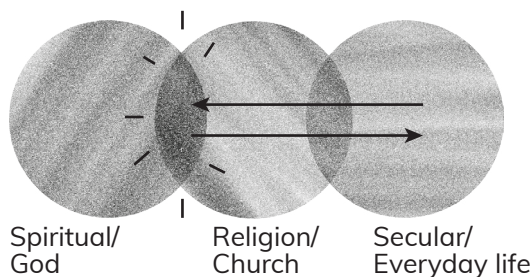
The most obvious picture of a dualistic mindset is the Sunday Monday Christian. They go to church on Sunday, experience God but then returns back to the secular world, spiritually lying dormant until next Sunday. Their faith is a private matter. Most of us adopt the dualistic paradigm more subtly. Practically what it means for us is that we are able to operate in homegroup in a particular way and that outside of homegroup things need to be done differently.

Missional Paradigm

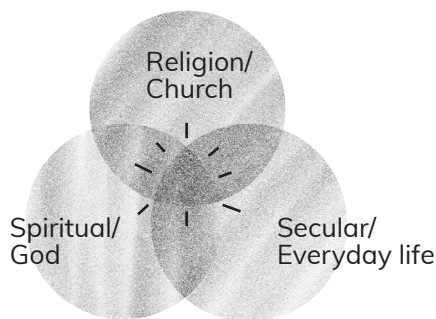


If we view Jesus' calling to move outward to the people around us in a missional paradigm we see that church happens wherever the spirit is establishing it. But this requires us to be creative and think about how can we meet the people where they're at and "bring church to them."

A diagram contrasting the two paradigms looks like this



An Incarnational/Missional approach means that we don't take someone out of their context so they can experience God but that we bring the church to them in a way that makes sense to them. It also means that we don't need to wait until Sunday or small group meeting to experience the Lord, but that he is in the everyday waiting for us to discover him.



Think about this:

- What are the things that I like doing?
- What are the things they like doing or what excites them?
- What turns them off?
- How can we connect over those things?
- What seems important to this person?
- What does God mean to them?
- Where are they at in their understanding of and openness to Jesus?