
FOUNDATIONS OF EVANGELISM

WEEK 3 – “WHAT’S THE BEST WAY TO DO EVANGELISM?”



COURSE OVERVIEW

- Goals for Course
 - Lay groundwork for NCD work
 - Start theological reflection with the Bible

WEEKS 1-2 REVIEW

- Defined evangelism: “*teaching the gospel with an aim to persuade*”
- Talked about how to measure effectiveness: *faithfulness, not results*
- Problems with evangelism: pride, fear, pessimism, indifference
- Brainstormed possible solutions, viewed biblical admonitions

WEEK 3 PREVIEW

- Methods of evangelism and critique
- Evaluation of NCD's "Need-Oriented" evangelism paradigm
- The church and evangelism
- Responsibilities besides proclaiming

Q & A #1

DAUNTING NEED

- No church is doing it very effectively on the North Shore.
- Methods and strategies... criticism.
- “I prefer my imperfect evangelism to your flawless non-evangelism.”

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Confrontational

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Testimonial

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Relational

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Invitational

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Initiative

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Friendship

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Event-based

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Lifestyle

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Service

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Gift-based

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Incarnational

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Need-oriented

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Questioning

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Missional living

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Apologetic

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

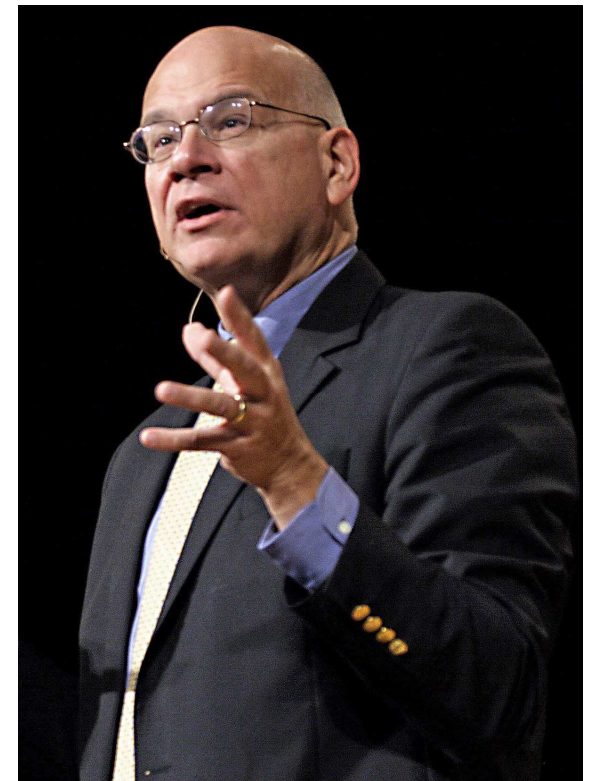
- Overflow

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Story/Narrative

METHODS/STRATEGIES/PHILOSOPHIES

- Phases (20th Century)
 - Crusades (mid 20th c)
 - Train small percentage of people
e.g. Evangelism Explosion (mid-late 20th c)
 - Alpha courses in homes (late 20th c)

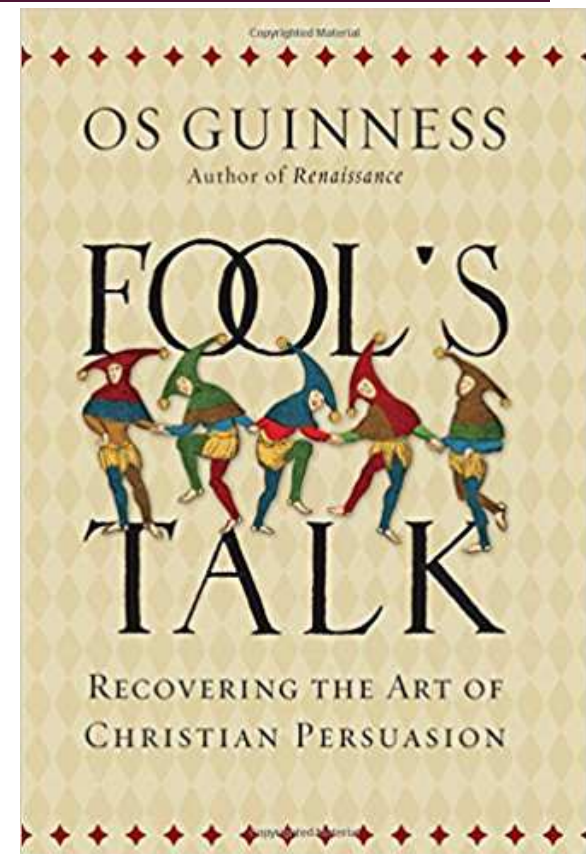


Q & A #2: SURVEYING THE LANDSCAPE

CRITIQUING METHODS

- “The Lord’s work must always be done in the Lord’s way. The method must serve the message. Technique is never neutral. It can be positive and useful, and it can also be harmful. Sometimes it can even be so brilliantly effective that its danger lies in its weaning us away from needing God at all.”

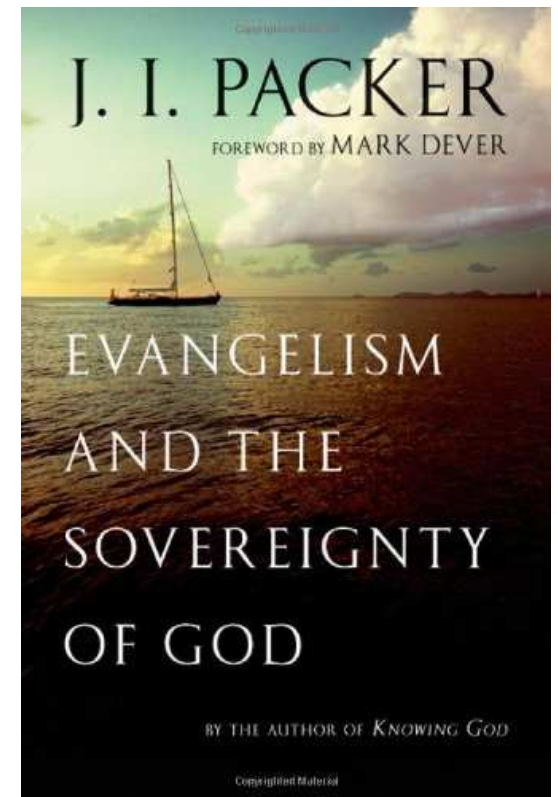
- Os Guinness



CRITIQUING METHODS

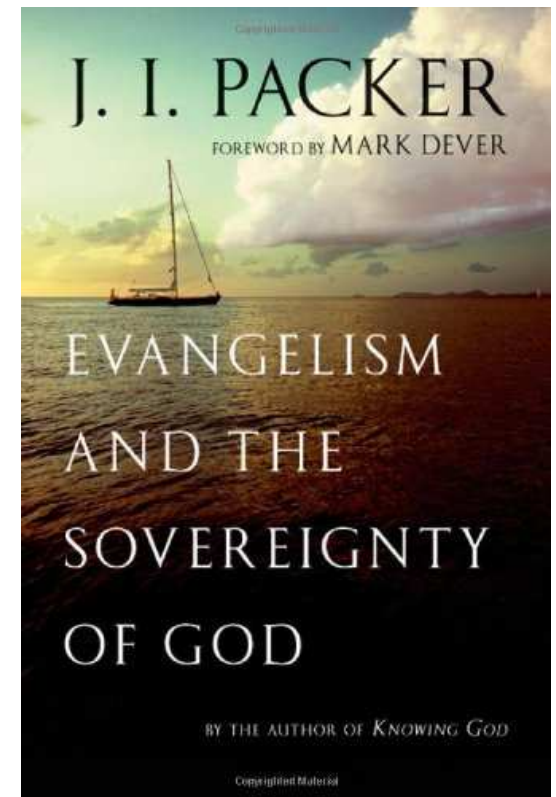
- “The best method of evangelism is the one that serves the gospel most completely.”

- JI Packer



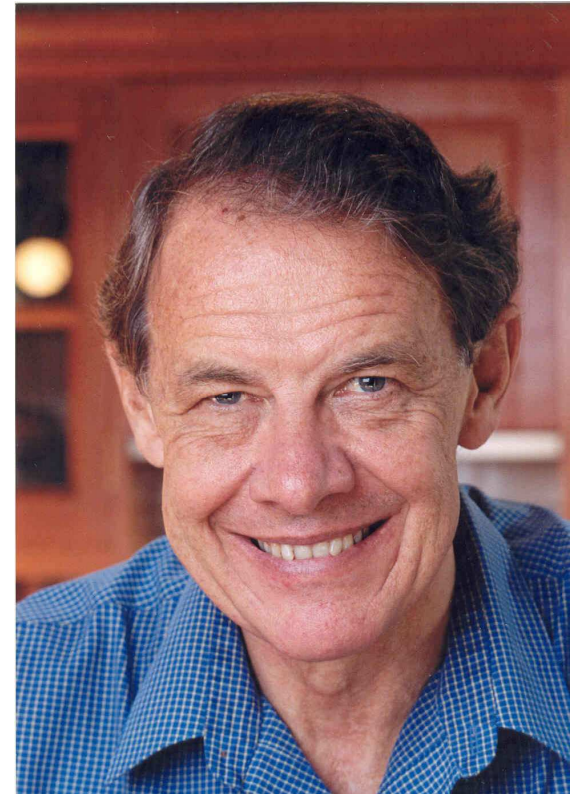
CRITIQUING METHODS

- Does the method draw attention to people, or to God?
- Does the method help or hinder the work of the word in people's minds?
- Does the method convey the whole gospel?
- Does the method convey the whole application of the gospel?
- Does the method convey gospel truth in a manner that is appropriately serious?



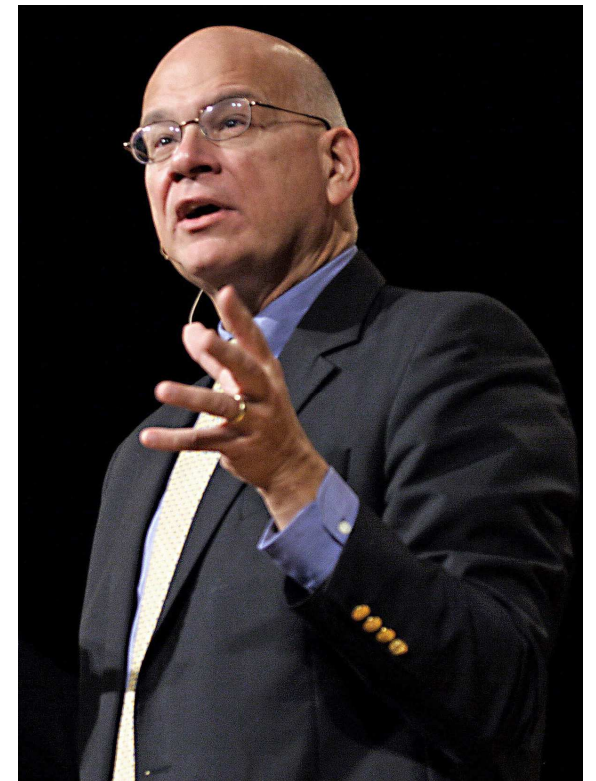
CRITIQUING METHODS

- Strategies vs. tactics
- God's the one with a strategy
- Make sure we keep tactics secondary, are willing to change them, make sure they align with God's strategy.



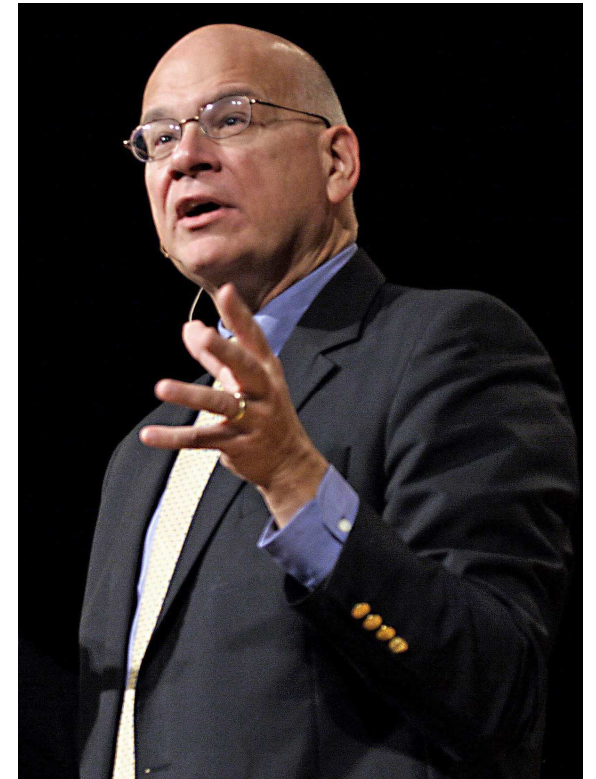
CRITIQUING METHODS

- Tim Keller: Need organic culture of two-way relational integrity first.
- Then we can talk about events, programs, groups.
- People are at different places in their journey, so different kinds of events, programs, groups are needed.



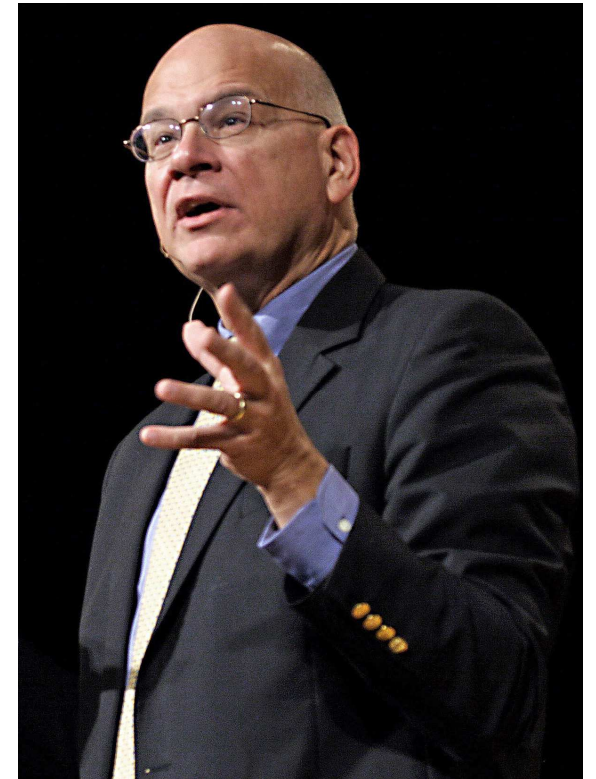
CRITIQUING METHODS

- (A LEVEL) e.g. service project.
Christian gets to know non-Christian;
almost no presentation of Christianity.
Just asking them to come.



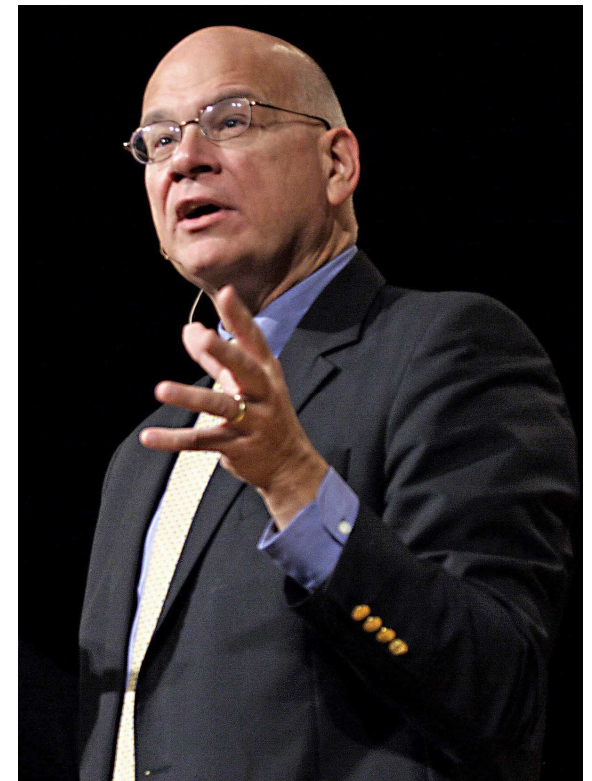
CRITIQUING METHODS

- (B LEVEL) e.g. concert. Something of broad interest that sheds positive light on Christianity.



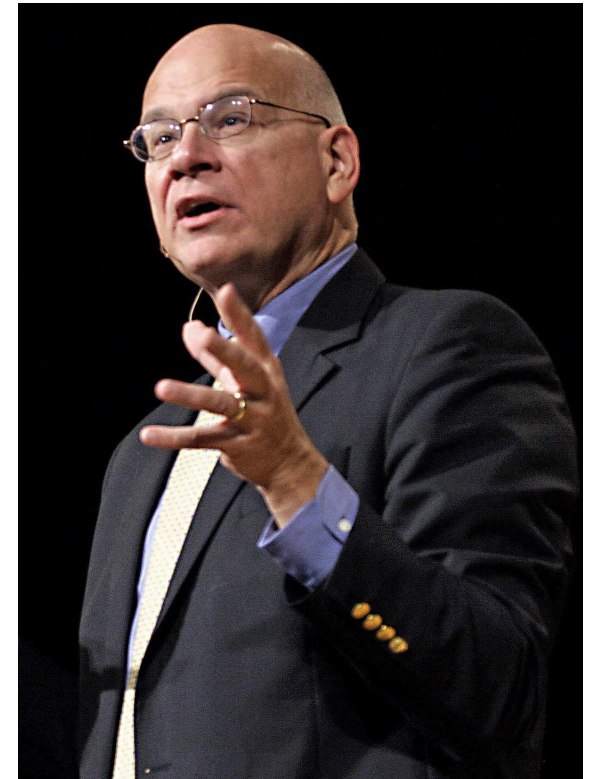
CRITIQUING METHODS

- (C LEVEL) e.g. mom's group, business lunches, book club. Affinity – Christians and non-Christians get together b/c in business or media or mothers of young children, etc. Talk about something of joint interest.



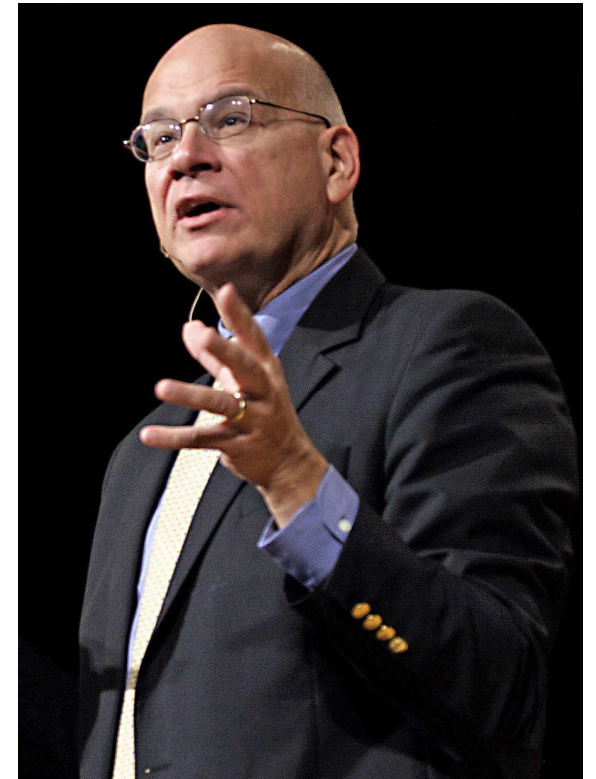
CRITIQUING METHODS

- (D LEVEL) e.g. small group/mtg over wine in which Christianity is being discussed. Bring a non-Christian friend – subject “Why does God allow so much evil and suffering in world?” “Do all religions basically worship the same God?” No great orator needed.



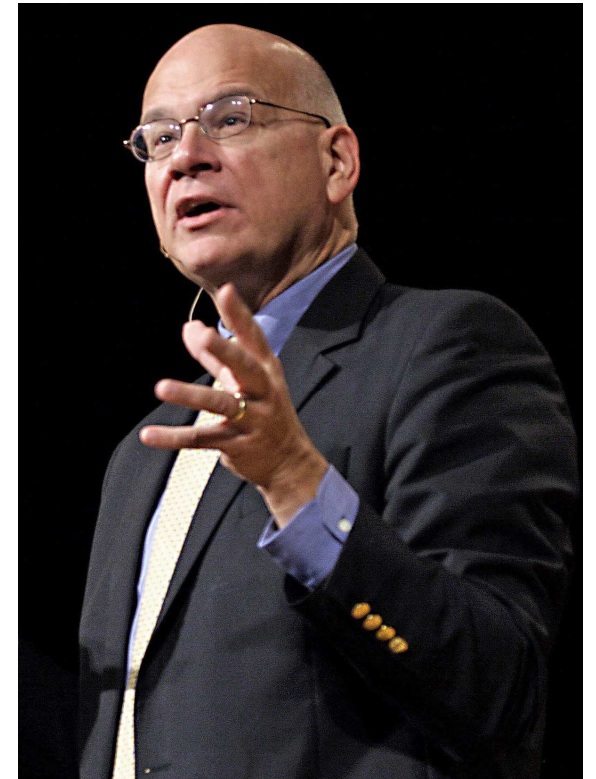
CRITIQUING METHODS

- (E LEVEL) e.g. Alpha, Christianity Explored. People really interested, studying a book or video series together.



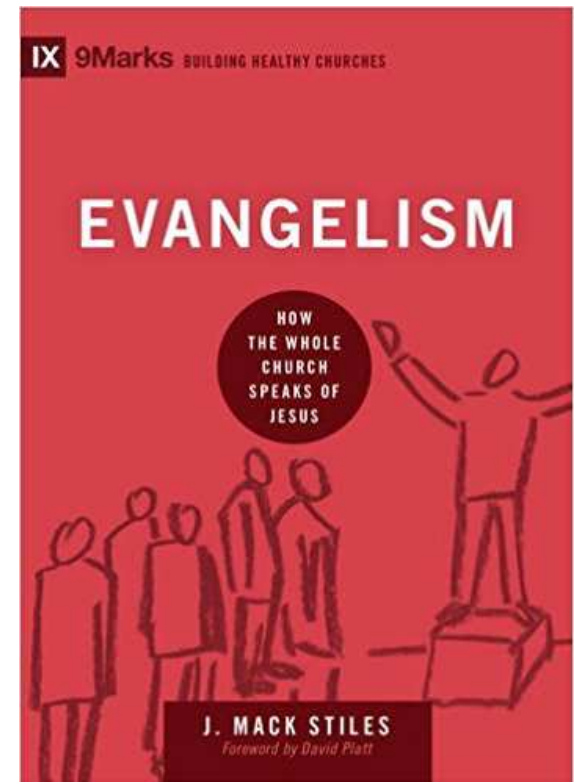
CRITIQUING METHODS

- (F LEVEL) e.g. Men's Breakfast w/ known speaker. Traditional situation, ppl brought into breakfast/meeting – speaker gives an invitation.



CRITIQUING METHODS

- Mack Stiles: The individual Christian should be seeker sensitive; the Sunday morning church service should be oriented to God.



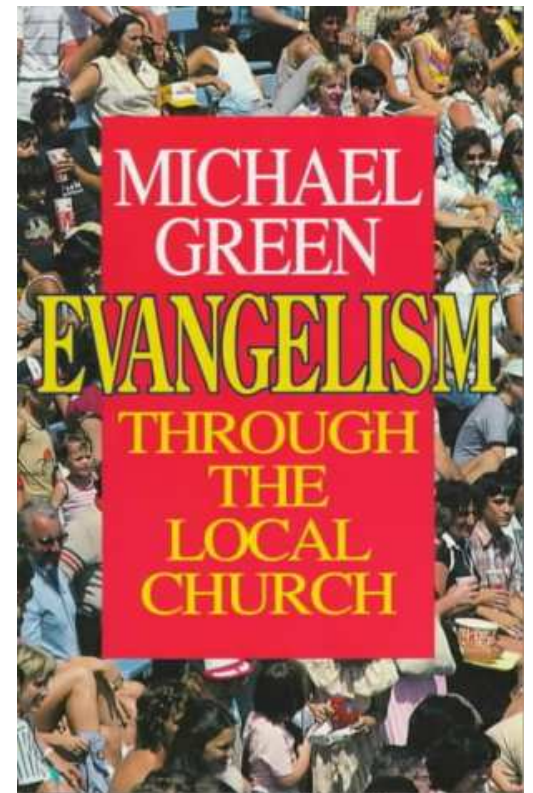
CRITIQUING METHODS

- We don't take on all of God's mission; he gave us a specific role to play.
- Holism vs. Prioritism



CRITIQUING METHODS

- Whatever methods we advocate should be filtered through the grid of the evangelism in the early church.



CRITIQUING METHODS

- Social justice and living out faith and meeting needs of community aren't optional.
- Evangelism is proclaiming, but can't just proclaim.
- “Lifestyle evangelism” inadequate but indispensable.

CRITIQUING METHODS

- If “earn the right to be heard” for too long, can feel like bait-and-switch when you actually get around to sharing the gospel.

CRITIQUING METHODS

- Methods that create a culture > methods tacked on.

CRITIQUING METHODS

- “What you win them with, you win them to.”

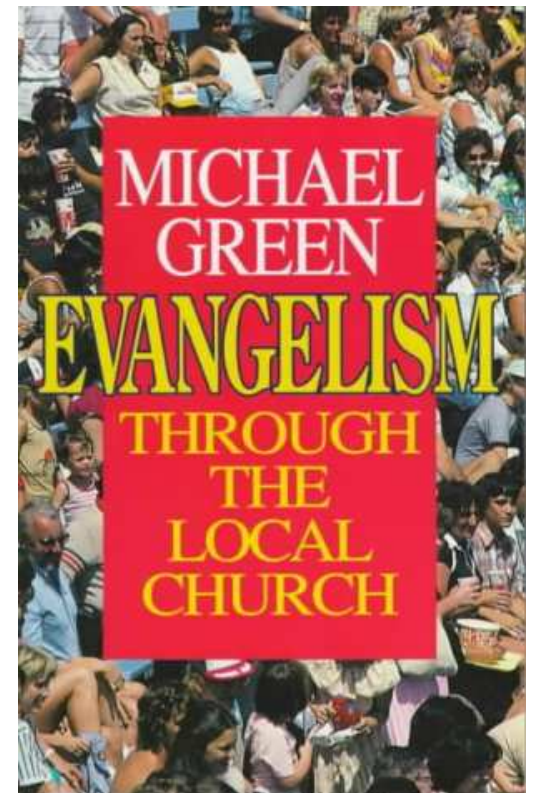
Q & A #3: CRITIQUING METHODS

“NEED-ORIENTED EVANGELISM”

- _____-oriented Evangelism
- How do we understand “need-oriented”?
- JI Packer – not preaching gospel if only present Christ in terms of a human’s felt wants
- Overall, no issues if we affirm...
 - Eternal needs > temporal needs
 - People’s felt needs aren’t often their most real needs

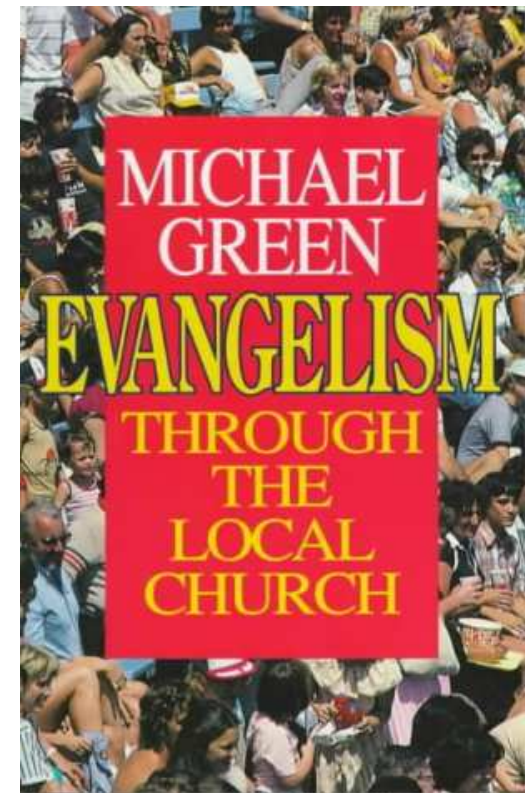
CHURCH AND PARACHURCH

- Church is God's plan for evangelism.
- Why doesn't church do its job?
 - Organized for maintenance, not mission
 - Pastors don't lead people to faith
 - Ill health of members
 - Lack of Christian confidence



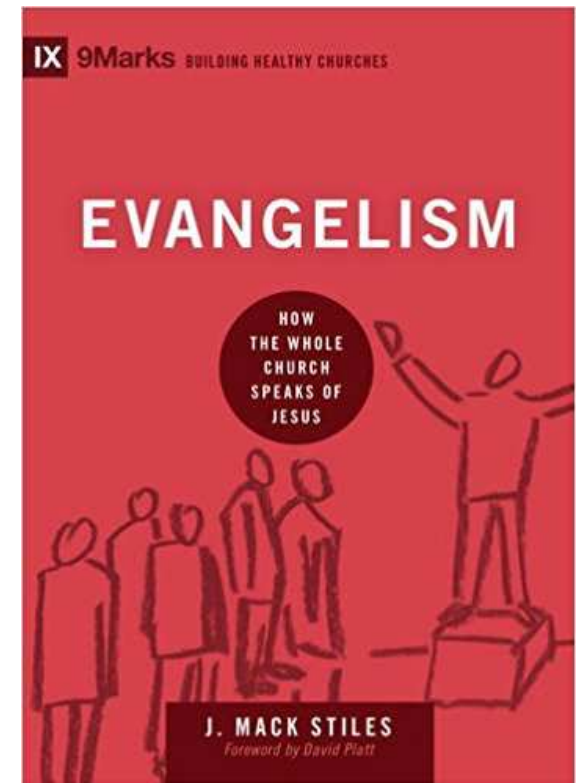
CHURCH AND PARACHURCH

“Many churches have never been exposed to the fresh oxygen of new converts coming into the still waters of their congregation. As a consequence, they do not expect it, and the wick of faith and expectancy burns low. Worship becomes bondage to tradition, not openness to God, and stagnation sets in. One of the most serious problems of all is the ghetto mentality, which increasingly seems to mark Christian communities as their numbers shrink. They cling together for warmth. They have less and less friends who are not church people. Instead, they are taken up with a round of in-church activities. If an evangelistic event took place in their church, there is, frankly, nobody they could hope to bring along.”



CHURCH AND PARACHURCH

- Need to be able to bring unbelievers to church trusting that the church will do its job.
- A healthy church doesn't need to do many new things program-wise to create this culture; gospel is already built into everything.



Q & A #4: NEED-ORIENTED EVANGELISM, CHURCH AND PARACHURCH

CONCLUSION

- 1) Sometimes it feels like we'd rather be rejected by the world than persuade the world.
- 2) Our main evangelism problem may be one step back from evangelism.
- 3) Can't just preach; must pray.