

The Church Must Restore Its Focus on Evangelism and Discipleship

Bob Young

The primary goal of the church should be to make disciples. Transitioning to an evangelism-focused church can be a challenge, as many leaders have experienced. One of the challenges is getting buy-in from members who have become used to being part of a traditional program-driven, program-defined church. Programs have been and continue to be a central part of many traditional churches. Gatherings and events continue to be the focus of many leaders. What happens when the focus is no longer on gathering, assembling, attendance at events, participating in programs? What happens when the focus is not buildings, bodies, and budgets? What happens when the focus is on evangelism and disciples, making disciples who make more disciples? What happens when a church changes what it counts?

Focusing on evangelism requires that programs and ministries not be allowed to dominate. Members who actively participate in ministries are expected to participate in evangelism as well. The first step is buy-in: evangelism is the mandate of the church! This focus begins with leaders, servants, ministers, teachers whose influence can permeate the church.

Evangelism and discipleship, when done well and continuously, will result in multiplication and increased membership. Members will develop and use the gifts God has given them. Leaders will find it more natural and easier to focus on spiritual health, seeking more than attendance and involvement in programs and ministries. Members will find spiritual growth a natural occurrence, sharing with others, disciples making more disciples.