

Echo Conference
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“The First Commission”

Matthew 10:16

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

I wonder if churches do to people what zoos do to animals. We cage animals. But do we end up becoming caged Christians? Is our life “too safe?”

“sheep among wolves” - live dangerously for the cause of Christ.

Job 11:6 - “true wisdom has two sides”. truth is found in the tension of opposites.

You can only compare yourself in two directions:

1. people you look much better than
2. people who look better than you.

stop comparing! it leads to either pride or dissension.

It's easy to get caught up in bad motives and die a slow death in the context of ministry.

References Genesis 3 - Satan as the “shrewdest” of all creatures. You'll have to outwit the enemy at it's own game.

Be innocent at a dove (keep your heart in the right place), but beat the world at it's own game.

“Contextual Intelligence” - ability to read the times and to seize opportunities. Incarnate the Gospel in a way that people can understand.

We're not as good at exegeting the culture and incarnating the Gospel. Speak it in a language that people understand.

Podcasting, blogging, webcasting, etc - they are NEW distribution channels for the Gospel. (sears catalog to rural people)

“Be affirmed in what you do.”

MArtin Luther - “God's Highest and extremist act of grace...” - the latest technology is the greatest thing God has done b/c it's the newest thing in sharing the Gospel.

Use the distribution channels around us - let's use them.

“I dream of the day business weekly is reading church books/magazines to get new ideas”

don't do ministry out of memory but out of imagination.

the greatest opposition to what God is doing today is from those who were on the cutting edge of what God was doing yesterday.

There are ways of doing church that nobody has thought of yet. - YES!YES!