

Philosophy and Methodology of Ministry of Max Janzen

In Acts 26:18 Jesus commissioned the apostle Paul, "to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Paul's role then was to:

Open people's eyes.

Turn them from darkness to light.

Turn them from the power of Satan to God.

Help them receive forgiveness.

Help them receive an inheritance by faith of a place with Christ.

My call is primarily from that same line of call. Though Paul was called to the Gentiles and I am called to families, our basis is identically that five-point call.

Philosophy of Ministry

My dear friend and whetstone, Phil Green put this statement about his own growth forward: "I had to recover from some hard-line ideology that was loosely wrapped in theology." I understand this experientially. It has brought me to approach my call differently than I did. Currently my thoughts are along these lines:

- 1) The work of the Kingdom involves all people, regardless of whether they are sheep of the flock or enemy wolves.
- 2) Sheep and wolves both have teeth, it's just that the sheep's teeth annoy and bruise more and the wolves' teeth are sharper and tend toward rabidity.
- 3) As an undershepherd, my role is to brutally beat the wolves and lead the sheep to the shearers.

Okay... so that's not my real POM... but it does make interesting conversation!

More likely, I lean toward what follows as my approach and basis operandi:

- 1) Scripture identifies the Church as the Body, the Building, and the Bride of Christ. God is preparing each part (i.e. each believer) in the context of the whole and for the purpose of the revelation of His glory at His Son's return. I am a part of this Body, this Building, and this Bride, and I have my own duties to fulfill. I am given authority by God, only as I submit to Him, and by those I serve, only as they submit to Him and trust me. Scripture calls me to be a humble and wise servant/ruler. My role as ruler is for the purpose of protection of unity and purity in the Body of Christ, and is never to be for personal agendas, whether they are mine or someone else's. My role as servant is for the purpose of health of the Body and her members.

2) Each believer finds the work of God's preparation strongly condensed within the scope of family. (For singles this becomes at times enigmatic.) God's Word instructs me to manage my family well so that I can manage His family well. For a believer, and thus for a pastor, the two are intertwined and lean on each other. They can be partners or enemies of each other, depending on the health and respect of either. One of the most beautiful aspects of the Kingdom of God is that of the family relationships within it.

3) God has called me to help believers build and rebuild strong, stable, and spiritual families as part of the preparation for Christ's return. This includes the spiritual family we call the church. They need to be taught to love each other, to care for each other, to work out problems, to be responsible, and to grow. Individuals and their families also need to learn to love each other, to care for each other, to work out problems, to be responsible, and to grow.

Methodology

I believe I must focus my efforts to a great degree on discipling and working with God-established leaders within the Body of Christ. I am called to shepherd them in equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. I can and will disciple a few, who can disciple a few, who can disciple a few. I also understand that I must work with other pastors within the team context. This plays out in cooperation with pastors of other church bodies and certainly with others on the same staff where I serve. I have specific responsibilities as senior pastor, but I have the same humanity and servant call as other staff pastors. Therefore, teamwork, family structure and humility are essential, and I must focus on and refine them.

I will preach, teach, exemplify and privately engage myself in ministry in order to reach all of these goals and objectives. I will seek to I will do my best to not have a profession, but instead to live in every way for Christ Jesus my Lord. My ministry is not a job, nevertheless it has some very distinct and demanding responsibilities, which must be handled proficiently, and I will seek to do so increasingly. I must, then, strive to fulfill my God-given role and work to enable others to fulfill theirs. I must serve all, and at the same time rule well. I must focus on my family ministry as I lead others to focus on theirs. I must seek to lead my wife and children to grow deep in Christ, to know Him and His Word, to serve Him and people unselfishly, and to be faithful to Him. I must then lead my church family to grow deep in Christ, to know Him and His Word, to serve Him and people unselfishly, and to be faithful to Him. I cannot do them separately or in order. I must do so simultaneously. I cannot ignore either for the other, but neither can I ignore the strain they will place on me to do so. I cannot seek to balance my attention to them, but rather to give all of my attention to them both. I must do well to insure they never see each other as enemies, but that

they count each other as helpful blessings from the Father. I must teach the church to behave as God's family ought to behave, so that families within the church will learn to behave as families ought to behave. In short, I have to live my life in a Spirit-led manner to teach and influence others to do the same.