

The Gospel According to YOU

*Spiritual Formation, Vocation and Mission
Between the Church and Canadian Culture*

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Baptist General Conference Alberta

CENTERING GOSPEL BETWEEN CHURCH AND CULTURE



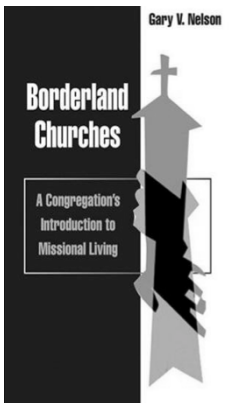
Tim Keller states: "There is no more crucial issue facing us today than the relationship of the church and the gospel to contemporary culture."

"What precisely is the *Gospel*, and how do we maintain its priority in respect to *Church and Culture*?"

Less than two weeks after his anti-gay remarks prompted an "indefinite hiatus" for the reality patriarch -- and a strong fan backlash -- the network says he will remain on the series.



A&E




Gary V. Nelson

There's been a deep cultural marginalization of the church in Canada for decades—*religion is a private not a public matter.*

Only 13% of Canadians attend church on Sundays, though 82% say they believe in "God."

Christianity is not as dominate in Canada as it once was, since *multiculturalism* was legalized in 1971 (based on *pluralism*).



Samuel Leonard Tilley

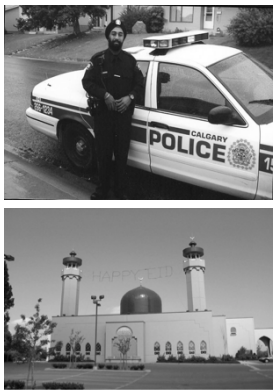
Psalm 72:8: "He shall have *dominion* also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth" (KJV)

"The Dominion of Canada"

Don't secularize Canadian history

Don't sanctify Canadian history

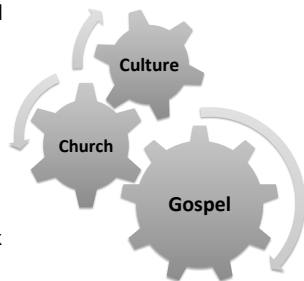
Kevin Flatt,
Jan.\Feb. 2014



Increased immigration in the 1990's brought an increase in Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam with major influence in Canadian culture with

Community involvement is not a high priority with most Canadians, though 82% believe in God (2005).

Not enough to understand culture and shape our ministry to it. We must also understand the nature of the gospel and the church, as well as spiritual formation, vocation and mission, in how to live and work in culture as "sent saints."





Theological Vision: The Gospel

The beginning of *the gospel about Jesus Christ*, the Son of God. (Mark 1:1)

After John was put into prison, Jesus went into Galilee, *proclaiming the good news (gospel) of God*. The *kingdom of God* is near. Repent and believe the good news (gospel) (Mark 1:14-15)

Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and *proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah*. (Acts 5:42)

They *preached the gospel* in that city and won a large number of *disciples*. (Acts 14:21)

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and *set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand* through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures *regarding his Son*, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David. . . (Rom. 1:1-4)

For I am not ashamed of *the gospel*, because it is the *power of God that brings salvation* to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. (Rom. 1:16)

Scripture foresaw that *God would justify the Gentiles by faith*, and *announced the gospel in advance to Abraham*: “All nations will be blessed through you. (Gal. 3:8)

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves *in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ*. (Phil. 1:27)

It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those *who formerly had the gospel preached to them* did not go in, because of their disobedience (Heb. 4:6).

¹ Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the *gospel* I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² *By this gospel you are saved*, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that *Christ died for our sins* according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that *he was buried*, that *he was raised* on the third day according to the Scriptures. (1 Cor. 15:1-4)



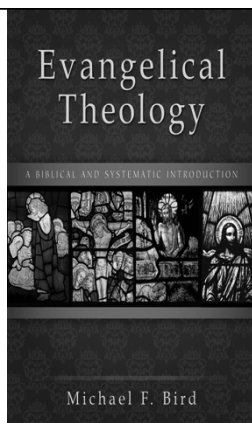
Is not an abstract concept.

Is not the results: e.g.: “salvation,” “heaven,” etc.

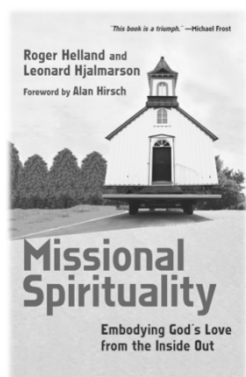
Is a historical kingdom reality, heralded news, of the saving work accomplished by the resurrected and reigning Lord Jesus Christ for us.

Unifying Centre of Evangelical Faith: The Gospel

"The gospel is the announcement that God's kingdom has come in the life, death, and resurrection [and ascension] of Jesus of Nazareth, the Lord and Messiah, in fulfillment of Israel's Scriptures. The gospel evokes faith, repentance, and discipleship; its accompanying effects include salvation [and sanctification] and the gift of the Holy Spirit."



In traditional evangelical spirituality the interior life of personal devotion and disciplines are emphasized. This paradigm can lead to a retreat spirituality disconnected from the daily rounds of life in the wider culture. We must alter this paradigm to view Christian vocation and mission as core to Gospel-centered (Christ-centered) spiritual formation.



John 17:15-20

Assumption: *in* the world but not *of* the world


¹⁵ My prayer is *not that you take them out of the world* but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Sanctified and Sent = Missional Spirituality

Spiritual and Social implications of the Gospel.

Roger Helland
Foreword by Mark Buchanan


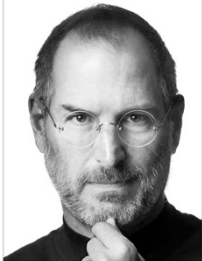
*Magnificent
Surrender*
RELEASING THE RICHES OF LIVING IN THE LORD



"Just as you have received
Christ Jesus as Lord, *continue*
to live in him" (Col. 2:6)


Gospel, Church,
and Colossian culture

Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson



Think different.

"The only way to propagate a message
is to live it."
Jim Wallis



CHANGED PEOPLE
CHANGED PEOPLE
CHANGED PEOPLE

**THE GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO YOU**

The Incarnation

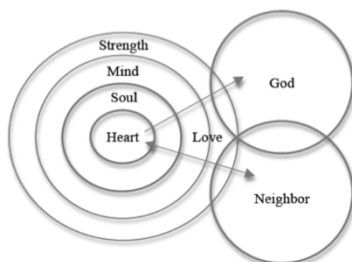
John 1:14



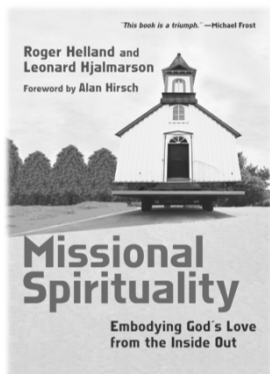
"tented, presenced, took up residence"

The Great Commandment

Mark 12:28-34



Neighbor with human rights & dignity made in God's image



"A missional spirituality is an engagement of embodied love for God and neighbor expressed from the inside out."

A missional spirituality feeds and forms mission
(John 4:34)

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God.

(1 Peter 2:9-12;
Matt. 5:16)



Pontifex – Pontiff =
“bridge builder”



What is It?

1. CULTURE IS WHAT IS CULTIVATED:

A lived worldview

2. CULTURE IS AN EXPRESSION OF MEANING:

“What people make of the world.”

3. CULTURE IS AN EXPRESSION OF CREATIVITY.

Key theological texts:

Not a “transformational” model.

Not simply a “faithful presence” model.

But more theologically, an “*incarnational*” model.

“Influence doesn’t happen by extracting ourselves from the culture for the sake of our values, but by bringing our values into the culture.” (Hugh Halter)

The Tangible Kingdom of Love = influence and lead people to Christ, while working for peace, compassion, and justice in our culture.



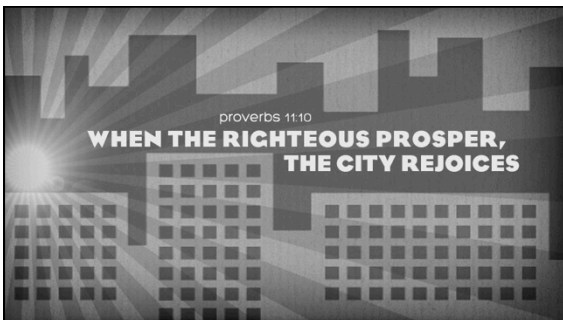
“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s great hunger meet.”
Frederick Buechner

Vocation

We live and work in response to a voice, a call.

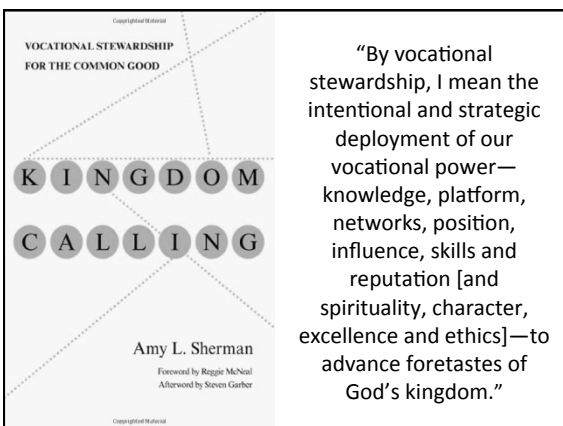
“There truly is no division between sacred and secular except what we have created. Holy people must stop going into “church work” as their natural course of action and *take up holy orders* in farming, industry, law, education, banking, and journalism with the same zeal previously given to evangelism or to pastoral and missionary work.”

Dallas Willard, *Spirit of the Disciplines*, p. 214



proverbs 11:10
**WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS PROSPER,
THE CITY REJOICES**

Righteousness is relational and social holiness:
to act and be right with God and people.



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VOCATIONAL STEWARDSHIP
FOR THE COMMON GOOD

**KINGDOM
CALLING**

Amy L. Sherman
Foreword by Reggie McNeal
Afterword by Steven Garber

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“By vocational stewardship, I mean the intentional and strategic deployment of our vocational power—knowledge, platform, networks, position, influence, skills and reputation [and spirituality, character, excellence and ethics]—to advance foretastes of God’s kingdom.”

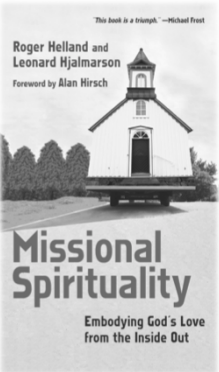
VOCATIONAL STEWARDSHIP AND HOLINESS

Vocation is loving God through loving neighbor: the good of our neighbor for the glory of God.

40% of people’s waking hours are spent at work, only 5% at church. 95% of church are non-clergy!

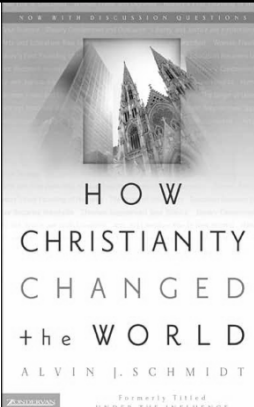
Work\vocation is part of the divine institution of creation. Most of Jesus’ parables and appearances have marketplace contexts.

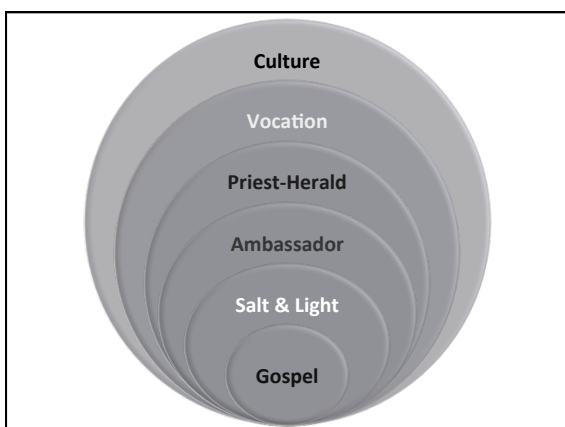
The workforce is the primary place where most people live out their faith through vocation for the common good and front line mission.



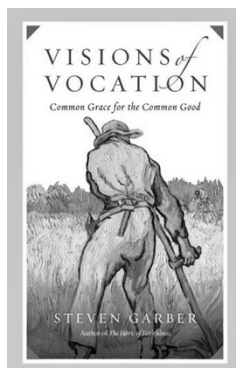
A missional spirituality enjoys a home field advantage where people have natural bridges to embody God's love to others in their vocation. Builders reach other builders; artists and musicians reach other artists and musicians; those in law enforcement reach others in law enforcement, and so on. All vocations are sacred when you serve according to your "call" from God, expressed by the Gospel According to You.

- Dignity of human life
- Sexual morality
- Children's and women's freedom & dignity
- Charity & compassion
- Hospitals & health care
- Education
- Labor & economic freedom
- Slavery abolished
- Art, literature, & music
- Holidays, words, symbols





"Seek the well-being of the city" was Jeremiah's prophetic word to the exiles in Babylon, for "when it flourishes, you will flourish" (Jer. 29:7 paraphrase). We share a common vocation to care not only for our own flourishing, but for the flourishing of the world, with people who are committed to a faith that shapes vocation that shapes culture. **Vocation is integral not incidental to the mission of God.**



SOME ACTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Change our paradigms of ministry.
2. Affirm and interview people in their specific vocations, and connect them to discipleship and church membership.
3. Ordain\bless people for vocational service as priests-ambassadors, for the common good in your community and culture.
4. Equip people in theological vision, missional spirituality, and vocational holiness.
5. Pray and practice Colossians 4:2-6.



Joyce Brinkerhoff
School Board
Kelowna



Jeff Edwards
Pastor
Calgary



Luchie Swinton
Stroke Network
Calgary



Mark Smith
Hi School Teacher
Drayton Valley

Examples



RESOURCES

D. A. Carson, <i>Christ & Culture Revisited</i>	James Davison Hunter, <i>To Change the World</i>
Andy Crouch, <i>Culture Making</i>	Tim Keller, <i>Center Church</i> .
Mark Driscoll, <i>Radical Reformation</i>	Alvin J. Schmidt, <i>How Christianity Changed the World</i>
Hugh Halter, <i>Tangible Kingdom</i>	Amy Sherman, <i>Kingdom Calling</i>
Roger Helland, <i>Magnificent Surrender</i>	Howard Snyder, <i>Models of the Kingdom</i>
Roger Helland, <i>Missional Spirituality</i>	Robert E. Webber, <i>The Secular Saint</i>
