

Leading People to Christ Part Four

Our Condition without Christ and the Holy Spirit: Spiritually Dead

- Weakness in our will – can't resist sin
- Blindness in our minds – *Eph 1:17ff; John 8:32*– truth set us free
- Chaos in our emotions – anger, hatred, vengeance, lust, pride, strife
- Sickness in our bodies – physical, spiritual, emotional (*Gal 5:16-21*)
- Mortality – death to our bodies

Our Need

- Justification – freedom from the penalty of sin (death)
- Sanctification – freedom from the power of sin (new life in Christ – born again)
- Righteousness – imputed by grace not works – right relationship with God

The Kingdom of God

Jesus came to show us the Father and to manifest the kingdom of God. I had a number of components –

- **Teaching Component** (Sermon on the Mount, Olivet Discourse, Upper Room Discourses)
 - **Training Component** – Make you fishers of men – follow me
 - **Power Component** – Healing and Deliverance
 - **Spiritual Component** – Destroying the lies and work of the devil – exposing Satan as cause
 - **Universal Component** – God so loved the world
 - **Practical Component** – Applying new life – we will live differently
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- In place of our *estrangement* He offers – forgiveness and reconciliation
 - In place of our *weakness* He offers – power from within through the Holy Spirit
 - In place of our *blindness* He gives – revelation knowledge
 - In place of our *emotional hurts*, He give us – inner healing (Isaiah 61)
 - In place of our *physical illness*, He gives us – physical healing (Isaiah 53)
 - In place of our *physical death*, He gives us – eternal life
 - In place of our *selfish desires*, He gives us – love for Him and His Kingdom

A Comparison

Apostolic Era – 1st Generation – passion for Jesus connected with:

• Evangelism	Turned the world upside down
• Making disciples	Mature followers of Christ
• Healing	Everywhere
• Signs and wonders	Expected
• The Holy Spirit	Welcomed
• Miracles	Normal
• Supernatural as normal	Part of the new life
• Suffering, sacrifice, serving, surrender	Evidenced
• Obedience	Unto death
• Church planting	Everywhere
• Church discipline	Loving but firm
• Correction, rebuke, exhortation	Necessary and done
• Authority of scripture	Taught and caught
• Salvation in Christ alone	Motivation for message
• Flee immorality	Taught and caught
• Sinners will not inherit the Kingdom of God	Proclaimed
• Repentance	Required
• Conversion	Expected
• Reality of hell, Satan, eternal damnation	Real and feared

Mainline Denominations in the West Today

• Evangelism	40 years of numerical decline
• Making Disciples	Vast majority are in “unbelief”
• Healing	Not practiced, taught or expected
• Signs and wonders	Avoided and dismissed as phony
• Holy Spirit	Down played
• Miracles	Denied
• Supernatural as normal	Avoided
• Suffering, sacrifice, serving, surrender	Consumer Christianity
• Obedience	Permissive
• Church planting	Church closing
• Church discipline	Tolerance
• Correction, rebuke, exhortation	Political correctness
• Authority of scripture	Personal interpretation
• Salvation in Christ Alone	Way too narrow minded
• Flee immorality	Embrace who you are
• Sinners will not inherit the Kingdom of God	All saved, loving God, no hell
• Repentance required	No longer needed
• Conversion	Vague and unclear
• Reality of hell, Satan, eternal damnation	Denied, ridiculed, rejected