



Evangelism: Part 1

EVANGELISM 2019-2020

BY REV. DOUGLAS J. KORTYNA

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- **Ephesians 2:1-10**— And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.



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WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- **Ephesians 2:1-10** (*continued...*)— ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- **Ephesians 2:1-10** (*continued...*)— ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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ESSENTIALS OF OUR FAITH AND SCRIPTURE

- 4. Being estranged from God and condemned (to hell or eternal separation, my addition) by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith...



ESSENTIALS OF OUR FAITH AND SCRIPTURE

- 4. (continued...) ...in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.



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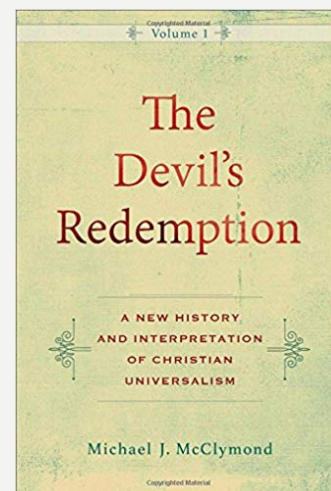
ESSENTIALS OF OUR FAITH AND SCRIPTURE

- Scripture refers to humans as “enemies of God” (Romans 5:10) and “children of wrath” (Eph 2:3).
- Furthermore, Jesus preaches about the separation of the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-46).



OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE MAINLINE

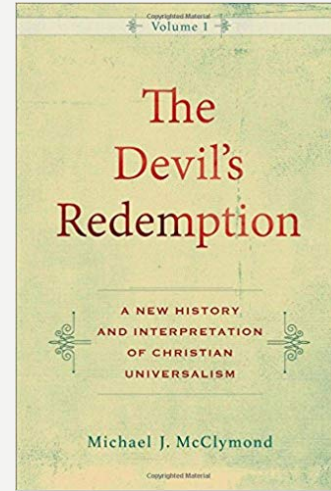
- The EPC has had a ton of churches received into the denomination after DOMA was struck down by the Supreme Court. But what if the mainline was undone by the embrace of another doctrine?



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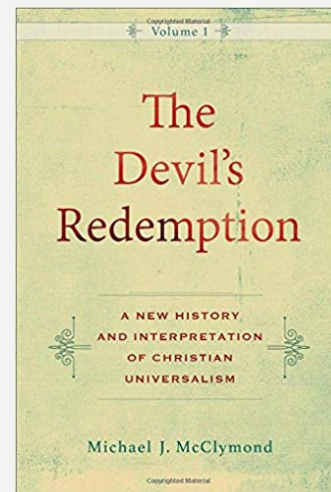
OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE MAINLINE

- It has been my general observation that closeted Christian universalists (the Methodist pastor of the church we attended as small children) were pervasive in the mainline.



OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE MAINLINE

- It should be no shocker that those who believe all will be saved believe that sinful behavior is okay.



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IMPLICIT UNIVERSALISM

- I have observed, in the life of evangelical churches over the years what I would call “implicit universalism.”



IMPLICIT UNIVERSALISM

- Universalism is what empires love and is used to “keep the peace”. We should not be surprised universalism is becoming more popular within evangelicalism.



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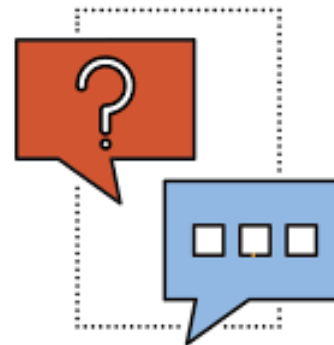
IMPLICIT UNIVERSALISM

- How many times have we heard faith plus works (self justification) at funerals we have attended from attendees? This is the example of implicit universalism.



IMPLICIT UNIVERSALISM: RESPONSE

- We always need to remind ourselves that eternity is at stake when we encounter every single person. We are prone to wander from this biblical truth.

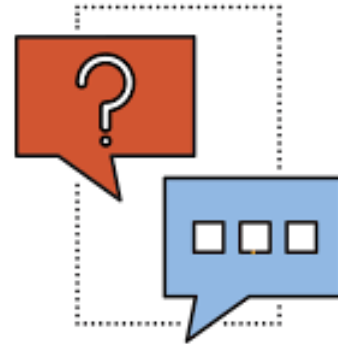


RESPONSE

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IMPLICIT UNIVERSALISM: RESPONSE

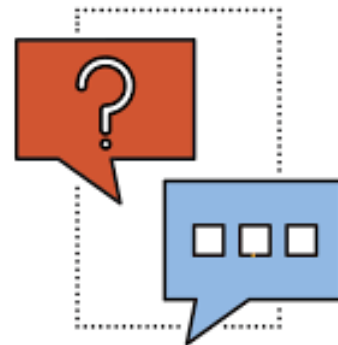
- Praying really does matter (Matthew 7:7-12). Furthermore, praying for non-Christians is wrestling with God. Remember Psalms 1-9!



RESPONSE

IMPLICIT UNIVERSALISM: RESPONSE

- We need to learn the skill of being sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is already doing around us. Perhaps we grieve the Holy Spirit more than we realize (Ephesians 4:30).



RESPONSE



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OPENING OBSERVATIONS

- When sharing the gospel with people or inviting a friend to church, **do not make the decision for them**. How often do we do this? Answer: all the time!

OPENING OBSERVATIONS

- It takes **persistence** to invite friends to church. Do not expect them to come the first time you invite them.



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OPENING OBSERVATIONS

- Learning to invite people to church **is a skill**. Moreover, if Jesus really matters more to you than anything in the world, don't you think it is natural to talk about Him with your neighbors?

WHERE IS RPC?

Initial Meetings: 2011



Church Plant: 2013



Church Established: 2017

Critical Mass:
(current goal)

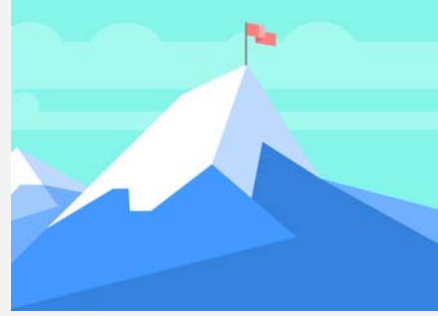
—100 members—

→ can really put a
“dent” in Erie, PA
in terms of mission

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WHAT IS CRITICAL MASS?

- I am defining critical mass as long term financial sustainability. Pastor's and Session's estimate is anywhere from 10-15 family units.



WHAT IS CRITICAL MASS?

- Because this is true, my presentation is aimed towards this objective. If we “hit” our goal, our definition of outreach at the Session level could be modified.



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WHAT IS CRITICAL MASS?

- We will learn that, at the end of the day, its all about relationships.



MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE



- I am being a realist in how I think people choose their churches.
It is consumeristic.
Just take the idiom “church shopping,” for example.

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MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE



- People choose churches for discipleship, child care, music (traditional or non-traditional), how cool the pastor is, and outreach events. The list could be infinite.

MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE



- Therefore, I think it is important for RPC to know their target audience. We need to have a strategy.

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WEEK ONE: RPC'S DEFINITION OF EVANGELISM

- We **NEED** to believe Reformed Christianity offers a purer form of Christian worship.



WEEK ONE: RPC'S DEFINITION OF EVANGELISM

- We **NEED** to realize that discipleship is not optional.



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WEEK ONE: RPC'S DEFINITION OF EVANGELISM

- We **NEED** to realize we are inviting people to join a covenant community whereby they worship the Triune God together.



TARGET AUDIENCE

- Session has labeled evangelism as a specific goal for RPC in 2019-2020.





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TARGET AUDIENCE

- The goal is to double the size of membership in 2019-2020.



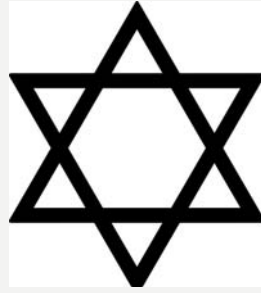
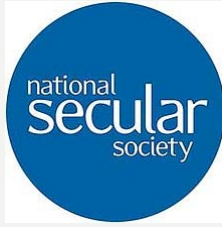
TARGET AUDIENCE

- The three demographics are non-Christians, mainliners, and Evangelical worshippers (broadly defined). Let's unpack these categories!

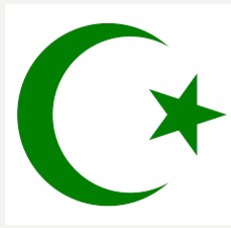


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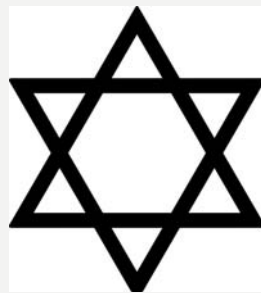
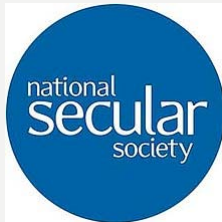
NON-CHRISTIANS



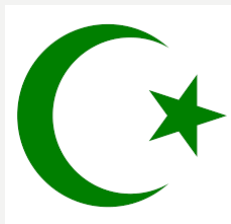
- This should be an **OBVIOUS** answer!
- How do I define non-Christians? Those who are secularists, Muslims, Buddhist, and so forth.



NON-CHRISTIANS



- The immigration population in Erie is such that you will rub shoulders with people from many different backgrounds.



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MAINLINERS

- One of the targets of our church should be mainliners. The EPC should “feel like” what the PCUSA was several decades ago.



MAINLINERS

- We should be concerned that mainliners are receiving a half gospel. As their ministers get younger, the mainline will speed up in its liberalization.





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MAINLINERS

- Perhaps much of the growth in the non-denominational movement was through ex-mainliners?



Christ UMC

44 Highland Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102
412.835.6621 christumc.net

Building Inclusive Community
Sharing Christ's Transforming Love



MY OBSERVATION OF MAINLINE CULTURE

- My family attended a United Methodist Church as a child. However, I was never formally confirmed in the Methodist church.

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MY OBSERVATION OF MAINLINE CULTURE

- The Mainline felt like a “social club” to me as a child. It was respectable for a lawyer, doctor, engineer, and so forth to be a member of the church.



MY OBSERVATION OF MAINLINE CULTURE

- Often, Mainliners did not share the gospel with anybody *because they were the culture in America*. People just naturally came to their churches.

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MAINLINE CONCLUSIONS

- Sociologists have predicted the future death of the mainline. I think this will speed up with their lack of younger candidates for the pastoral ministry.



Eastminster Presbyterian in Pittsburgh



Theological Mentor's PCUSA Church

MAINLINE CONCLUSIONS

- I think God's judgment is upon the mainline. They may have individual churches that preach the gospel. But, they do not have institutions that equip leaders for gospel ministry.



Eastminster Presbyterian in Pittsburgh



Theological Mentor's PCUSA Church

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MAINLINE CONCLUSIONS

- It would not be wise for young families to raise their children in the mainline. The Kortyna's realized this when we visited a few orthodox PCUSA churches in Pittsburgh.



Eastminster Presbyterian in Pittsburgh



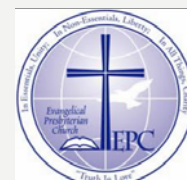
Theological Mentor's PCUSA Church

EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

- We should be concerned that generic Evangelicalism has drifted towards the celebrity pastor, therapeutic worship songs, and making discipleship optional.



Versus



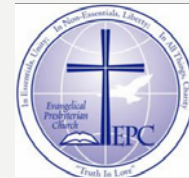
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EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

- I personally believe Erie is a little bit behind with trends. Therefore, I wouldn't be shocked if we found people joining our church because being Reformed and liturgical is trendy.



Versus



EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

- RPC is the only Evangelical, Presbyterian, and liturgical church in town. That makes us unique.



Versus



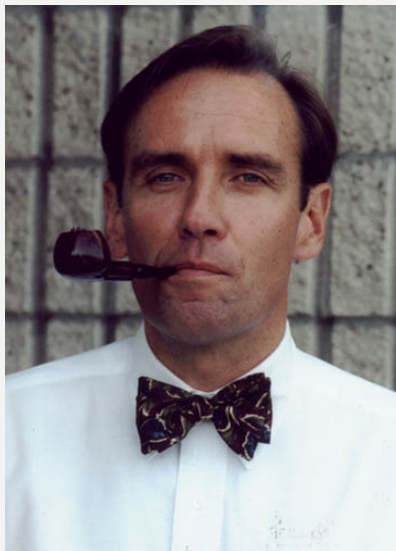
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EVANGELICALS *(CONTINUED...)*

- We should conceive of the broader church community as each having strengths and weaknesses. Baptists (non-denominational) get you saved, **Presbyterians** excel with education and discipleship, Episcopalians/Anglicans start schools, charismatics have a tradition of experiencing God in profound ways.



D.G. Hart

EVANGELICALS *(CONTINUED...)*

- Therefore, it is okay to realize that we might be the stop after somebody gets saved in the Baptist (non-denomination) tradition and starts to get serious about their faith.

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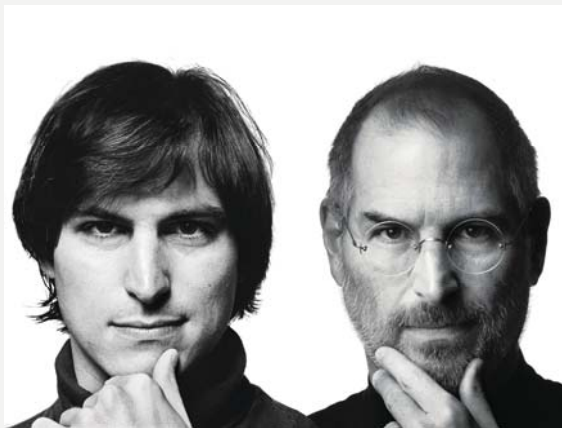


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EVANGELICALS *(CONTINUED...)*

- We should not be embarrassed if people from other churches in town want to join RPC for our Christian formation programs.

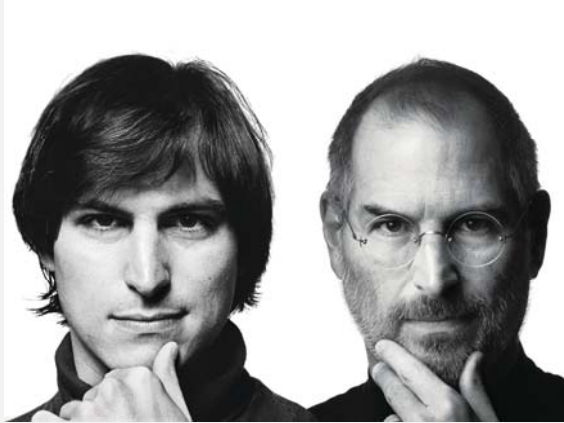
CONSUMERISM RECONSIDERED



- What if people didn't know what they wanted? This was Steve Jobs premise when starting Apple.

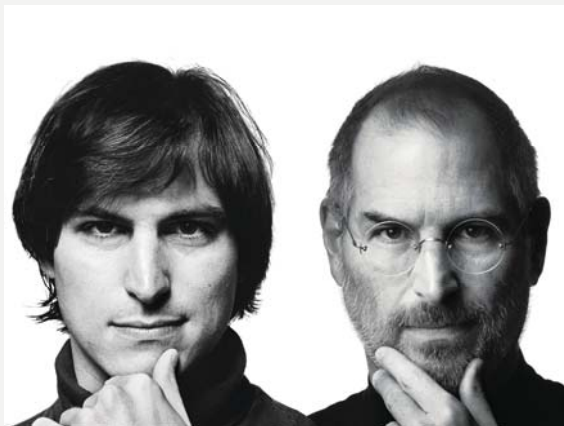
Evangelism: Part 1

CONSUMERISM RECONSIDERED



- We have what people don't know they need, the gospel.

CONSUMERISM RECONSIDERED



- We have what people don't know they need, a pure and simple mode of Christian worship.



Evangelism: Part 1

WEEK ONE: CONCLUSIONS

- If we do not do a better job at broadly-construed evangelism at RPC, our inaction will threaten the longevity of our church.

WEEK ONE: CONCLUSIONS

- This is a command by our Lord. Evangelism isn't "optional".
- We will double in size if each family gets another family to join RPC.