



# TRENDS & TRUTHS

BY PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2018

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*“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; 10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; 11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:9-11)*

**Note:** Quotations and footnotes are given for the sake of research. Their inclusion does not equal endorsement.

## INTRODUCTION

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*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)*

*“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;” (2 Thessalonians 2:3)*

*“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” (2 Timothy 3:5)*

**Note:** This lesson is meant to focus on principles more than preferences and on advancing in ministry with knowledge and judgment (discernment).

**Quote:** “I will use my influence and speak my mind about what I believe is truth from the Word of God, but not everyone has to see everything just the way I do in other matters to be a friend or someone I can fellowship with.”—**Kevin Folger**<sup>1</sup>

# Three Areas of Trends and Their Answering Truths

## 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Trends

### TREND

#### \_\_\_\_\_ Contextualization

- **Affirming Too Much of Culture**
- **Over Contextualization Can Lead to Syncretism, Where One Limits Doctrine to Blend in to Culture**

**Definition:** *syncretism*—the amalgamation or attempted amalgamation of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought

**Quote:** “The real issues in people’s lives are too important for us to just reduce it down to a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer in a media outlet.”—**Brian Houston**, when asked what the Bible says about homosexuality<sup>2</sup>

### TRUTH

#### The \_\_\_\_\_ Is a Called-Out Assembly

**Definition:** *ekklesia*—a called-out assembly

*“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15)*

**Quote:** “Christian pursuit of timeliness has become trivial. Following trends passionately but promiscuously, many Christian leaders have become trendy.”—**Os Guinness**, *Prophetic Untimeliness*<sup>3</sup>

*“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:2)*

**Definition:** *conformed*—to fashion after the same pattern; change from the outside

**Quote:** “The world...is characterized by the subtle and relentless pressure it brings to bear upon us to conform to its values and practices. It creeps up on us little by little. What was once unthinkable becomes thinkable, then doable, and finally acceptable to society at large. Sin becomes respectable, and so Christians are no more than five to ten years behind the world in embracing most sinful practices.”—**Jerry Bridges**, *The Discipline of Grace*<sup>4</sup>

**Quote:** “Relevance has become the obsession of the modern church, and sometimes truth is lost in the pursuit of relevance.”

*“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”*  
(*Matthew 16:24*)

**Quote:** “The faith world of John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, John Jay...is disappearing. In its place, a new evangelicalism is arriving in which therapeutic self-concern overshadows knowing God, spirituality displaces theology, end-times escapism crowds out day-to-day discipleship, marketing triumphs over mission, references to opinion polls outweigh reliance on biblical exposition, concerns for power and relevance are more obvious than concern for piety and faithfulness, talk of reinventing the church has replaced prayer for revival, and the characteristic evangelical passion for missionary enterprise is overpowered by the all-consuming drive to sustain the multiple business empires of the booming evangelical subculture.”  
—**Os Guinness**, *Prophetic Untimeliness*<sup>5</sup>

*“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.”*  
(*1 Peter 3:7*)

## TREND

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### Contextualization

## TRUTH

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### in Our Outreach and Presentation Is Needed

**Quote:** “Death comes when memories of the past precede vision for the future.”

## TREND

### Preaching

**Quote:** “To be sure, the scholarly approach, the cultural relevance, and the calm spirit pervading The Gospel Coalition (TGC) movement has much to commend it, and it is understandable why some fundamentalists who are disenfranchised with mean-spirited and intellectually-inferior preaching are drawn to it. I wonder, however, if the pendulum has swung too much in the opposite direction. There are certain land mines that are embedded within the TGC movement, and the failure to navigate these land mines may result in a significant amount of collateral damage.”

—Dr. Jeff Amsbaugh, Ministry127.com<sup>6</sup>

**Quote:** “While shameful pulpits where people are named and ridiculed do exist, another tragedy is developing. Specifically, cynically minded parishioners view all preaching as bashing, all strong leadership as authoritarian.”

—Dr. Paul Chappell, *Guided by Grace*<sup>7</sup>

## TRUTH

### Preaching Must Be Spirit-Filled, Rightly Dividing Truth, and \_\_\_\_\_

*“Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars’ hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. 23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.”*  
(Acts 17:22–23, 28, 32)

**Definition:** *kerusso*—to herald, as a public crier, to proclaim

*“And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.” (Matthew 11:1)*

*“For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: 2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.” (1 Thessalonians 2:1-2)*

*“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” (Acts 5:42)*

## 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Trends

*“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.” (Hebrews 13:7)*

### **TREND**

#### \_\_\_\_\_ Trends

**Quote:** “Missional Christians generally display common ground with the world, first through generous acts of service but also through the arts and at times through positions of leadership within the community or state. Having earned the right to be heard....”  
—Rodman MacIlvaine<sup>8</sup>

### **TRUTH**

#### **Faith Comes by Hearing** \_\_\_\_\_

*“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)*

**Quote:** “We don’t need to earn a right to preach the gospel. This missional idea is often really lifestyle evangelism and is creating timid Christians.”

- **Church Structure and Leadership Is Not Anti-Missional**

- **Community Involvement Is Not Enough**

**Quote:** “Missional philosophy can have some good attributes, like the desire to see people saved. However, it often is a mile wide and an inch deep. By expanding God’s mission to all social ills (e.g. social justice, AIDs, environmentalism) it dilutes or neglects the singular purpose for missions which is making disciples (Matthew 28:19).”—**Tobi England**, M. Div. Instructor, West Coast Baptist College

- **Being Involved in Community Life Is Not in and of Itself Fulfilling the Great Commission**

**Quote:** “[God] wants to restore not just the nature of his intended relationship with people but the benefits of it as well. Adequate food, restorative rest, authentic relationships, life in harmony with the rest of the created order...these are blessings that God granted in the Garden and still wants humanity to experience....He declared that He had come to give life, life to the full. This means that missional Jesus followers are engaged in all aspects of human experience—political, social, economic, cultural, physical, psychological, and spiritual...”

—**Reggie Mcneal**, *Missional Renaissance*<sup>9</sup>

## TREND

### Gospel-Centered \_\_\_\_\_

#### How to Finish Your Race Well

From Spiritual Leadership Conference 2016

##### 1. Focused on God

*“My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.” (Psalm 57:7)*

*“Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, And that seek him with the whole heart.” (Psalm 119:2)*

##### 2. Focused on the Gospel

*“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:11)*

- **Ministry Must Not Be Your First Love**
- **Ministry Must Not Be Your Identity**

*“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)*

**Quote:** “‘Gospel-centered’ is a popular term and one we may look to as a mark of conformity or orthodoxy, as if using the term is inherently good. However, in some cases it is more of a sales strategy than a theological distinction. Further, not every author means the same thing by it and some authors understand it more fully than others.”—**Tim Challies**<sup>10</sup>

**Quote:** “In a gospel-centered church, preaching the message of the gospel is the priority. The gospel is an announcement, not about what we are to do for God, but about what He has done for us.... In a gospel-centered church, the emphasis of the message is more on what Christ has done than what we are to do.”—**J.D. Greear**, *Gospel*<sup>11</sup>

**Quote:** “Being both gospel-centered and community-centered might mean...running fewer evangelistic events, youth clubs, and social projects and spending more time sharing our lives with unbelievers.”—**Tim Chester**, *Total Church*<sup>12</sup>

## TRUTH

### Living a Christ-Centered/Gospel-Centered Life Should Be Our \_\_\_\_\_

- **We Must Lead and Motivate by the Love of Christ (The Gospel)**
- **We Should Not Use Our Liberty as an Occasion to the Flesh**

**Quote:** “Hyper-grace becomes ultra-legalism, in the sense of spiritual pride and condescension.”

*“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:1-2)*

*“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)*

*“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;” (Philippians 1:27)*

**Quote:** “The point of gospel-centeredness, however, is not the shrewd ability to critique others. The point of gospel-centeredness is to adore God...”—**J. D. Greear**, *Gospel*<sup>13</sup>

*“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;” (Titus 2:11–12)*

**Quote:** “I believe that a distortion of grace is largely responsible for the apathy many Christians demonstrate toward their local congregations. Whenever the importance of membership, the necessity of attendance, the expectations for giving, the responsibility of service, and the need for purity within a local congregation are upheld, the proponents of bad grace yell ‘Legalism!’”—**Robert Jeffress**, *Grace Gone Wild!*<sup>14</sup>

**Quote:** “A soft, shapeless Christianity ready to adapt to any worldview may enjoy initial success, but it will soon be overtaken and lose its interest [when]...those outside the faith soon see that they can reap Christian benefits on purely secular grounds without paying whatever small price is being asked for the adapted version of this faith.”

—**David F. Wells**, *The Courage to Be Protestant*<sup>15</sup>

**Quote:** “Teachings about grace which de-emphasize righteous living have snared many Christians....These teachings often view grace as a form of license to live according to one’s own will....This often becomes a stumbling block and a hindrance to their walk of progressive sanctification.”

—**Dr. Paul Chappell**, *Grace for Godly Living*<sup>16</sup>

*“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13)*

- **We Must Remain Sensitive to the Holy Spirit of God (Which Is a Work of Grace)**

*“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” (2 Timothy 2:3–4)*

- **We Must Teach the “Whole Counsel” of God**

**Quote:** “Teaching the commands of the New Testament does not violate gospel-centeredness.”

**Quote:** “Peter, James, Paul elected to unhitch the Christian faith from their Jewish scriptures, and my friends, we must as well.”—**Andy Stanley**, *North Point Church*<sup>17</sup>

**Quote:** “In his zeal to reach the unchurched and to recover those burned by traditional religion, Pastor Stanley forgets that the Old Testament also tells us the story of Israel, including Israel’s blessed future. (For the record, the story of Israel was important for the Gentile converts as well; that’s why Paul can freely reference the Passover in his writings; see 1 Corinthians 5:7–8.)”—**Christian Post**<sup>18</sup>

- **We Must Preach against the Sins of the Day**

**Quote:** “Jesus was both relational and declarative...”

*“Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.” (Jonah 1:1–2)*

*“But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;” (Titus 1:3)*

*“And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.” (Acts 10:42)*

*“For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias’ sake, his brother Philip’s wife. 4 For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.” (Matthew 14:3–4)*

**Quote:** “There are some, in these apostate days, who think that the church cannot do better than to come down to the world to learn her ways, follow her maxims, and acquire her ‘culture.’ In fact, the notion is that the world is to be conquered by our conformity to it. This is as contrary to Scripture as the light is to the darkness.”—**Charles Spurgeon**

**Quote:** “[The modern church] is lacking in its ability to remain uncontaminated by the unchristian thinking and morality of contemporary culture.”—**R. Kent Hughes**, *Set Apart*<sup>19</sup>

**Quote:** “It is the duty of the clergy to accommodate their discourses to the times, to preach against such sins as are most prevalent, and recommend such virtues as are most wanted.”—**John Adams**, Second President of the U.S.A.<sup>20</sup>

- **We Must Avoid the Calvinism in Books That Are Written about the Gospel-Centered Movement**

**Quote:** “The word [*whosoever*] is a welcome mat inviting the world to God. The idea is non-restrictive. The idea is anyone... anywhere...anytime.”—**David Allen**, *Whosoever Will*<sup>21</sup>

*“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:8–9)*

*“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)*

*“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:3–4)*

- **We Must Be Sensitive to Over-Programing Which is a True Problem in Many Churches. A Heavy Program Can Become Burdensome.**

**Quote:** “Acceptance via performance only enhances the root problem of pride.”

*“To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.” (Ephesians 1:6)*

## TREND

### Apologetics

**Quote:** “Apologetics must play a greater role today. Evangelism proper is the answer to the ‘what’ question: ‘What is the gospel?’ Apologetics is the answer to the ‘why’ question: ‘Why should I believe that?’”—**Timothy Keller**<sup>22</sup>

## TRUTH

### We Must Never Compromise the

*“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18, 21–24)*

**Quote:** “The desire to become amiable to a world that lives in hatred to Christ and His followers (John 15:18) creates a slippery slope. In fear of looking crazy to a fallen world, wide-sweeping doctrinal concessions have been made. **Keller, for example, states that biological evolution is ‘neither ruled in nor ruled out.’**<sup>23</sup> Thus, **Keller’s views on creationism are not strictly literal.**”—**Dr. Jeff Amsbaugh**, Ministry127.com<sup>24</sup>

**Quote:** “Moore is entrenched within the stream of Christian democratic communitarianism, calling for ethical transformation within the church as the initial ‘manifestation of the kingdom.’”—**Dr. Jeff Amsbaugh**, Ministry127.com<sup>24</sup>

**Quote:** “Today, too many boards, staff, and leaders are silently choosing to follow this well-worn path of Mission Drift.

Monitoring inputs and outputs, they forget to measure what matters most—their ability to implement their full mission. They hire for technical competency alone. Soft-pedaling their Christian identity, they do not defend their mission. Growth becomes their primary definition of success.”—**Peter Greer & Chris Horst**, *Mission Drift*<sup>25</sup>

## TREND

### Cooperation/ Collaboration

**Quote:** “...you have more of a kingdom mentality, you want to work together with other kingdom partners.”—**Ed Stetzer**<sup>26</sup>

## TRUTH

### Baptists Fellowship around \_\_\_\_\_ and Practice

- **We Must Avoid an Uncertain Sound**

*“For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?” (1 Corinthians 14:8)*

- **We Are to Separate from Those Who Teach Contrary Doctrine**

*“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid.” (Romans 16:17)*

- **Stand with Your Convictions**

- **Be Careful Not to Confuse Your Church**

*“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3)*

**Quote:** “If you have been disappointed by an independent Baptist mentor, be careful about running to an *equally flawed leader* in another movement.”

**Quote:** “I’m hearing more of younger pastors being challenged to follow after and seek counsel either from their

own peers or ‘only Jesus.’ This counsel actually feeds into the validation trap, perpetuating the cycle from the other side. Here’s how it works: A young leader looks to men instead of to Christ for validation and acceptance... For a while, he receives this affirmation; but over time, he finds it was hollow... With a heart that has become somewhat jaded toward his heritage or personalities who disappointed him, he swings the pendulum of counsel the opposite direction and says, ‘Don’t follow men; only follow Jesus.’...What follows is a new cycle of young men still seeking validation and approval, just from another set of leaders.” —**Dr. Paul Chappell**, “The Validation Trap” at paulchappell.com<sup>27</sup>

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Trends

**TREND**

\_\_\_\_\_ Attendance

**TRUTH**

\_\_\_\_\_ and Attendance  
**Must Be Encouraged, Taught, and Modeled**

*“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)*

**TREND**

\_\_\_\_\_ Impact

**TRUTH**

**People Need \_\_\_\_\_ Involvement**

*“Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.” (Romans 12:13)*

*“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:” (Hebrews 10:24)*

## **TREND**

**Lack of Cross \_\_\_\_\_ Fellowship  
and Counsel**

## **TRUTH**

**We Must Encourage Younger and Older to  
Meet and Grow \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Thine own friend, and thy father’s friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother’s house in the day of thy calamity: for better is a neighbour that is near than a brother far off.” (Proverbs 27:10)*

*“Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. 16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:15-16)*

## **TREND**

**Fewer Young People Going into \_\_\_\_\_**

## **TRUTH**

**Jesus Had One \_\_\_\_\_ Request**

*“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:38)*

## **TREND**

**Slowing in Evangelism and \_\_\_\_\_**

- Increasingly Concerned with Safety
- Increasingly Distrustful of Christianity

**Quote:** “Christianity in America [is] the single greatest cause of atheism today...their medieval ideology that has to change.”  
—**The Huffington Post**<sup>28</sup>

- **Increased Hostility toward the Faith**

**Quote:** “Robert Jeffress says ‘you can’t be saved by being a Jew,’ and ‘Mormonism is a heresy from the pit of Hell.’ He’s said the same about Islam. Such a religious bigot should not be giving the prayer that opens the United States Embassy in Jerusalem.”—**Mitt Romney**<sup>29</sup>

## **TRUTH**

### **His Last Command Must Be Our First** \_\_\_\_\_

*“And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,” (Acts 20:20)*

- **Use Social Media**
- **Consider Safety**
- **Have Enrollment Dinners**
- **Use Events and Organized Times**
- **Build Trust through Service**
- **Involve Our People in Creative Outreach Events**
- **Provide Quality Services and Preaching Series that Encourage Your People to Invite**

## Concluding Thoughts

### **1. Walk in** \_\_\_\_\_

*“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” (James 4:6)*

**Quote:** “Humility before God promises more grace.... Growth in grace promises God’s sufficiency for continued ministry.”  
—**Dr. Paul Chappell**, *Guided by Grace*<sup>30</sup>

- **Biblical, Gospel Motives Cultivate Humility**

**Quote:** “Sooner or later, even the upbeat soul gets beat up by life. We need a higher power, a deeper strength...a mightier word.”—**Robert Morgan**, *The Promise*<sup>31</sup>

- **We May Not Agree with Someone’s Method, but We Must Not Attack Their Motive**

**Quote:** “At this meeting there were some younger men I am sure that see things about ministry a bit differently than I do. I am not talking about Biblical doctrine, but more of preferences when it comes to ministry. As an older pastor, I may not agree with their preferences or want to practice them. Yet, if it isn’t a Biblical mandate, then I must give them the right to allow the Holy Spirit to direct them. We don’t have to agree on every issue to be friends and have fellowship....I will use my influence and speak my mind about what I believe is the truth from the Word of God, but not everyone has to see everything just the way I do in other matters to be a friend or someone I can fellowship with.”—**Kevin Folger**<sup>32</sup>

- **Deal Biblically, Honestly, and Legally with Sin and Abuse**

- **Seek to Grow in Grace-Based, Servant Leadership**

*“After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.” (John 13:5)*

## 2. Be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Use of Trends and Terms

**Quote:** “Neo-evangelicalism was born in 1948 in connection with a invocation address which I gave in the Civic Auditorium in Pasadena. While reaffirming the theological view of fundamentalism, this address repudiated its ecclesiology and its social theory. The ringing call for a repudiation of separatism and the summons to social involvement received a hearty response from many Evangelicals....It differed from

fundamentalism in its repudiation of separatism and its determination to engage itself in the theological dialogue of the day. It had a new emphasis upon the application of the gospel to the sociological, political, and economic areas of life.”

—Harold Ockenga, Fuller Seminary<sup>33</sup>

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Only as the Holy Spirit Leads You**

- **Be Creative, Gospel-Centered, and Loving, but Buy the Truth and Sell It Not**

*“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.” (Proverbs 23:23)*

*“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” (Jude 3)*

- **Both the Commands and the Gospel Have a Role in Teaching Us and Forming Us Spiritually**

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

- **Stay Focused on Christ and His Mission**

*“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10)*

- **Be Bold in Faith for the Future**

**Quote:** “Churches are either risk-taking, care-taking, or under-taking.”

## CONCLUSION

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**Special Thank You:** Although Pastor Shane Lewis could not be a part of our panel discussion on this topic because of his ongoing cancer treatments, we appreciate his review and insight into this lesson. Please pray for his continued healing and rapid recovery.

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**Note:** Quotations and footnotes are given for the sake of research. Their inclusion does not equal endorsement.

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