

Institutional or relational : evangelize or testify ?

Philosophy	Institutional		Relational	
Approach	<p>Approach people based upon a connection with a Christian <i>institution</i>.</p> <p>People therefore identify the Christian with the Church.</p> <p>The believer prays that this connection will open a door for personal testimony or that people will come to the local church to discover Christ.</p>	<p><i>"I am an evangelical; this is the church I go to."</i></p>	<p>Interact with people based upon the quality of Christian life (individual and collective) that is due to a <i>relationship</i> with Jesus.</p> <p>People therefore identify the Christian(s) with Christ.</p> <p>The believer prays that this relationship will open a door for testimony and further sharing of Good News.</p>	<p><i>"I know Jesus; we have a relationship with him."</i></p>
Principle	<p><i>Evangelize</i> : "seek to convert (someone) to Christianity."</p>	<p><i>"You need to know Jesus."</i></p>	<p><i>Testify</i> : "serve as evidence of something's existence"</p>	<p><i>"I know Jesus."</i></p>
Starting point	<p><i>Announce the plan of salvation</i>: sin separates us from God, the cross is the solution.</p> <p>It is not readily obvious to people how this is "Good News."</p>	<p>Bad news is shared first.</p>	<p><i>Incarnate the Good News</i>: show generosity because we have freely received from Jesus.</p> <p>This incites people to ask questions about the Good News that they have observed and experienced.</p>	<p>Good News is demonstrated and shared first.</p>
Explanation	<p><i>Positive aspects</i> : forgiveness, grace, new life.</p>	<p>Good news is explained second.</p>	<p><i>Negative aspects</i> : sin, repentance, the cross.</p>	<p>Bad news is explained second.</p>
Principal & secondary influence	<p>1) The Christian's <i>words</i> take precedence.</p> <p>2) The life of the Christian and the community are part of the evidence furnished in order to convince.</p>	<p>Modernist approach › words are the priority</p>	<p>1) The <i>life</i> of the Christian takes precedence.</p> <p>2) The words of the Christian (testimony, plan of salvation and apologetics) elucidate why s/he is like this.</p>	<p>Postmodern approach › life is the priority</p>
Finish line	<p>Through repentance and faith in <i>Christ</i> › receive forgiveness, grace, relationship, new life, joy and freedom.</p>	<p>Mt.28 & Ro.8 the goal › make disciples and obey Christ</p>	<p>Through repentance and faith in <i>Christ</i> › receive forgiveness, grace, relationship, new life, joy and freedom.</p>	<p>Mt.28 & Ro.8 the goal › make disciples and please Christ</p>