

Reimagining Church

Session 2: What in the World is God up to?

Changes in our culture: like moving from driving a car to sailing a ship.

Video: **Tony Campolo**, Professor of Sociology, Palmer Seminary PA.

Would a church that throws birthday parties for prostitutes be a good thing?

Can you imagine such a church? Why or why not?

What if the prostitutes wanted to join the church?

Would you want to belong to such a church? Why or why not?

We tend to think of church as it is as a given. So mission means getting people into church as it is. But what if we start in a different place?

1. What is the Gospel?

- Many answers: how can they all be true? Like the end of World War II
- Mark 1:14-15
- The story of the Kingdom is the story of the Bible: a six-act play (Tom Wright)
- Colossians 1:13-20

2. What is the church?

- The Gospel creates, shapes and directs the church!
- “It’s not that the church of God has a mission in the world, but that the God of mission has a church in the world.”

3. What is a Christian?

- Someone who has responded to Jesus’ call to join the mission of God.

A missional church: St James’ Anglican Church, Perth Ontario: the “Skater Church.”

“The church is the only society in the world that exists for the benefit of its non-members.”
William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury

For this coming week . . .

- Think of someone you know who has no church connection—maybe never did.
- What would church look like for them?
- If they came to your church as it presently is, what would they like?
- What would they find weird or difficult?
- If you could design a church they would want to attend, what would it be like?

