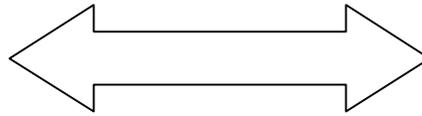

INTEGRAL MISSION: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROCLAMATION AND SOCIAL ACTION

Session

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Discuss: Social action and gospel proclamation. Where do you sit on the spectrum and why?

Social action is primarily a vehicle to give Christians a platform to explain, verbally, the gospel of forgiveness of sins



Social action e.g. parenting group has inherent value in and of itself and its fine (sometimes even beneficial) for us not to expect or even aim for conversions

The definition of Integral mission

The expression "integral mission" is borrowed from the Spanish, *misión integral*, which Latin American missiologists first coined in the 1990's. Just as 'pan integral' was bread with all the goodness still in it, so 'misión integral' was mission with all the goodness still in it.

1.1. The Bibles' story as a story of integral mission

Creation – blessing given (Gen 1:26-28).

De-creation (fall) – blessing removed (Gen 3:8, 10, 14-19, 23)

Re-creation (redemption) – blessing restored (Gen 12:2-3; 39:2-6; 50:20; 18:18-19. Deut 4:5-8. Lev 9:18; 9:10. Psalm 10:17-18. Gen 22:21. Lev 25.)

The person of Jesus stands at the heart of the story. (Luke 1:42; 19:38. Matt 21:9, Luke 6:20-22. Mark 10:16. Gal 3:6-14. Matt 28:19-20; 22:37-40; 5:1-18; 10:5-10; 25:31-45. Luke 24:45-51).

New creation – blessing completed (Rev 19:9, 20:6; 22:14; 22:5. Rom 8:21).

What are the dimensions of integral mission?

Read Luke 6:16-21. How far reaching are the implications of this prophecy?

E.g. Who are the poor? How are they poor? Who are the prisoners? Blind? Oppressed?

1.2 The dimensions of integral mission

- a. ***Integral mission and care for the poor*** (Lev 19:10; 23:22; 25. Isa 1:15-17. Amos 5:11. Isa 58; 61:1-3. Luke 4:18, 12-14. Gal 2:10. James 2:1-7).

- b. ***Integral mission and the pursuit of justice*** (Exod 22:21. Prov. 31:8-9. Isa 1:17. Amos 5:12-24. Micah 6:8. Luke 4:18. Matt 23:23. James 5:1-6).

- c. ***Integral mission and 'the welfare of the city'*** (Jer 29:4-7. Gen 1:28. 1 Tim 2:1-7. 1 Pet 2:13-17. Rev 21:26).

- d. ***Integral mission and the care of creation*** (Gen 1:26-29)

- e. ***Integral mission and welcoming the stranger*** (Gen 2:25, 3:12-16, 12:3, 15:13; Exod 1-3; 6:2-8, 22:21, 23:9; Lev 19:33-34. Matt 2:1-15. Acts 2:5, 1:8, 10, 8:26ff, 8:4. Eph 2:11-22; Gal 3:28. Rev 21:26).

- f. ***Integral mission and evangelism***
 - a. Integral mission seeks to care for the whole person, addressing their spiritual, social, emotional and material poverty.
 - b. Nonetheless, it is appropriate that different ministries of the church are weighted towards one or other of four dimensions (spiritual, social, emotional and material).
 - c. Integral mission is based on a strong theology of both creation and salvation.
 - d. We need to be vigilant against the dampening of our fervour for people to be saved eternally from the just judgement of God, and we dare not overlook the numerous biblical texts which express this passion (eg Luke 24:45-49; John 3:13-18 & 35-36; Acts 17:29-31; Rom 3:21-31; 10:1; 2 Cor 5:11-6:2; 1 Thess 1:8-10).

- g. ***Integral mission and me*** (John 3-4)

Evaluating the missional balance of a ministry

The *Micah Declaration* statesⁱ,

“...in integral mission our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. If we ignore the world, we betray the word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the word of God, we have nothing to bring to the world.”

Effective mission (Integral mission) is committed *both* to the central importance of evangelism as the verbal explanation of the message of the gospel *and* to the outworking of our discipleship in practical acts of love, justice, righteousness and compassion.

1. Integral mission seeks to care for the *whole person*, addressing their spiritual, social, emotional and physical poverty.
2. Nonetheless, it is appropriate that different ministries of the church are weighted towards one or other of four dimensions (spiritual, social, emotional and physical).

We do not truly love people as whole people if we do not long, pray and work for their eternal salvation, just as we do not truly love them as whole people if we treat them simply as evangelistic projects!

Evaluating your ministry

You have ten ‘tokens’ to spread across the four dimensions. Each dimension should have at least one.

What is your area of ministry (choose one at a time):

Individually

	Spiritual	Social	Emotional	Physical
What should be your ministries weighting?				
What does your ministry actually look like on the ground?				

As a team (discuss/ negotiate!)

	Spiritual	Social	Emotional	Physical
What should be your ministries weighting?				
What does your ministry actually look like on the ground?				

ⁱ See <http://www.micahnetwork.org/integral-mission>