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SESSION 3: THE DANGEROUS CHURCH IN 2020

Quotes

“There are trends we look for and trends we should watch.”

“The reality is you have to engage where you are, and you have to think about the future.”

“If current trends continue, the church will have less money, but there will be more people attending our churches. Economic growth and evangelical church growth are counter-cyclical, according to one study. That is, when the economy goes down, evangelical church attendance goes up, in past economic cycles.”

“We [the church] no longer have home field advantage in North America.”

“I think that is why the two most ‘newsworthy’ movements about young pastors are the New Reformed movement and the Emerging Church movement. What they have in common is that they both offer what they see as a better gospel than the one provided by the modern evangelical machine.”

“People often define evangelicals, from Joel Osteen, Brian McLaren, and John MacArthur, and they’re all called evangelicals. That’s a pretty broad stream.”

Notes

What changes do we need to know about culturally, and how do those changes impact the way we think about church?

I. Cautions

1. Don’t believe the hype.
People see what they want to see, because they have their own agenda.
2. Be more cynical.
3. Be people of Issachar (1 Chronicles 12:32)
We have to skate to where the puck is going to be.

II. From a Cultural Perspective, The Dangerous Church Will Have:

1. Seized Economic Opportunity
2. Will Be Addressing Sexual Brokenness
This is an issue in our culture that will not go away.; have to address issues of homosexuality, marriage, pornography, and other sexual issues in biblical ways, with biblical ethics.
3. Wrestled with Gender Inclusion
You have to be able to clearly explain your church’s position and graciously apply it.
4. Faced Increasing Intolerance
Because when faithful churches take a stand against social and cultural issues, they’ll face intolerance.

III. From a Church Perspective, The Dangerous Church Will Have:

1. Navigated the Post-Seeker Context
2. Regained Confidence in the Gospel
3. Addressed Evangelical Confusion
4. Rethought Discipleship
5. Worked Through Denominational Catharsis
6. Found Networking Strategies
7. Implemented New Innovations

Links

[Full session notes](#)

[Ed Stetzer’s blog](#)