

## Missio Praxis in Children's Ministry: *Leading your children's ministry to impact the local culture in practical ways for Jesus Christ.*

What do we mean by Missio Praxis? Missional Practice of Ministry within the culture. Incarnating the life and character of Jesus Christ in practical winsome ways.

Micah 6:8 Love mercy

Matthew 22:37-38 Love the Lord your God

Matthew 22:39 Love your neighbor as yourself

Luke 6:27, 35 Love your enemies

Our attitudes and our actions provide reveal our character and ministry ethos.

Principles for incarnational ministry.

1. Listen to the ethos and rhythms of your culture. Ethnography. Participate.
2. Find areas of common ground.
3. Take care of practical needs.
4. Be involved in social justice.

Common attitudes of some individual Christians:

1. Desire church to be **reclusive**: forming a culture completely self-contained and separate from the world; little to no outside contact is emphasized.
2. Desire church to be **exclusive**: forming a culture which only accepts outsiders, converts included, if they conform to the cultural practices of the church. Limits dialogue with world culture to strategies of changing it.
3. Desire church to be **Missional**: forming a cultural ethos which recognizes the need to be in the world, but not of it. We conduct ourselves as if Christ was living his life through ours. Seeks to redeem cultural traditions where possible, rather than convert to preferred cultural tradition.

Idea flash: Sidewalk Sunday school (Bill Wilson-Metro Kidz), sports camps, neighborhood carnival, music, dance or arts camps, VBS, after school clubhouse, backyard bible clubs, mission projects for neighborhood (HUGS-hats, underwear, gloves, socks-church on the move Jim Wideman), soup kitchen, apartment outreach, tutoring, daycare, co-op school, kids choir plays, easter egg hunts, harvest party, puppetry.