

## Our Philosophy

Charles Spurgeon said: “The Gospel is like a caged lion: it does not need to be defended, it just needs to be let out of its cage.”

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, particularly after the famous Scopes trial, religious conservatives adopted a “retreat, separate, and escape” philosophy of ministry. The belief was (confirmed, it seemed at the time, by two World Wars), that the world was careening to terminal disaster and the Lord’s return was imminent.

This ministerial philosophy, with forethought and purpose, gave priority to personal piety and ceded the cultural and civic institutions of society to secularists and modernists. To be involved in these arenas was considered “non-ministerial,” something Christians “ought not to do.” The church should save souls, not get involved in lesser realms of “the world,” so we were taught.

As history has unfolded, and as the continuing decay of our culture testifies, this strategy was a mistake (with ongoing repercussions), unaltered by occasional pockets of “revivalism” which are frequently little more than rotating already harvested grain from one person’s bin to another, with little or no net increase to Christ’s kingdom.

Surely the Church is called to save souls, but the Gospel has become so individualized, internalized, and privatized, as to no longer have a “salt and leaven” affect on society. Today, in the institutions of culture and society, religion is condescendingly tolerated as a private indulgence, for the intellectually weak, with no objective relevance to society.

This internalization and privatization has been an unmitigated disaster. The Gospel is both individual and social. If we win souls, win elections, change a few laws, and lose the culture, and the hearts of people, we have lost. As the bearers of God’s image, our pre-fall cultural mandate did not disappear when sin entered--it just needed to be redeemed, and it has been!

Being a believer in Jesus Christ is a redemptive vocation. Our Protestant forefathers (Calvin) taught that the “individual believer has a vocation to serve God in the world—in every sphere of human existence.” He taught that Christ was the Redeemer of every part of creation, including culture. The believer is to be the extension of Christ’s kingdom, not just in the four walls of the church on Sunday, but in the street, office, and marketplaces of the world, every day of his/her life. The Christian is called to be God’s agent of transformation and reformation in neighborhood, professional organization, and civic institutions.

The believer of the 21<sup>st</sup> century must break out of the preaching, praying, and Psalm singing spiritual ghetto of societal irrelevancy that the church has become. We must recover the mandate to be salt and light. The answer is not activism of various forms. Cultural coercion is not the answer for cultural decay. Aggressive conservative moralism is, and always has been, the enemy of the revelation of Christ--a counterfeit gospel. The manifestation of the life of Christ and Christ’s kingdom, heart by heart, life by life, individual to individual is the need of the hour. The world is not waiting for a better funded and more persuasively presented idea—it groans for the manifestation of the sons of God.

This institute is committed to a fundamentally evangelistic paradigm. The courses and seminars offered by Wave of Life are specifically designed vocationally, with the express intent to equip believers for life reality, not just church existence. Of course, we give due emphasis to the study of Scripture; however, the context of our study is not data transfer of information, but the transference of life and passion that affects behaviors and destiny.

We neither despise academic learning, nor intellectual excellence. We will strive for both. However, we will worship neither. To that end, we offer a developmental track for those called to the realm of the academy or Biblical scholasticism. However we are committed to not marginalize those who do not share the same calling, but rather attempt through our course offerings to bring kingdom reality to every arena of life.

To that end, we believe we are unique and trust that you will find in our courses what you are looking for, that you may be personally strengthened, conformed to His image, and equipped for more effective life expression in whatever endeavor He has called you.

Will you join us? Will you pray for us?

Come, let us discover Him anew and extend the good news of the Gospel into every corner of the planet.