

Sowing to the Culture

Compiled by Kirk Irwin

Scripture:

John 4: 27-38

Quote:

“...how does the Christian *specifically* begin to sow...? I believe that sowing to the American culture will be the great missionary strategy of the next century...”

Note: Downs lists seven specific ways that sowing to the culture can happen. Since we have limited time we will deal with four this week and three next week.

4 of the 7:

1. *We must revalue the role of the sower* –
“Since there never seem to be enough workers to meet the needs of the harvest, it’s hard to encourage talented and available Christians to spend their time sowing.”
2. *We must talk within our churches (and groups) about how to sow* –
“The only ministry skills that are taught in our churches are the skills of the harvester. A church hosts an evangelism-training program; parishioners are taught to use a basic evangelistic tool like the Roman Road. Then they are sent out, duly admonished to put this training to use with their neighbors and friends. The problem is, they don’t, at least according to statistics. I suspect that many of them leave the training program thinking, ‘My friends aren’t ready for this, I don’t know my neighbors well enough, and I could never get away with this at work.’ Equipped only with the skills of the harvester, they continue on in guilty silence, telling themselves that one of these days they are going to walk right up to a neighbor and put that training to use. One of these days.”
3. *We must train our youth in the philosophy and basic skills of sowing* –
“Sowing is a long-term process, and the sooner we learn the skills of the sower, the sooner the process can begin. We can greatly ease the process if we will begin to help our children understand the role of the sower from a very young age.”
4. *We must encourage training and education for advanced areas of sowing* –
“Imagine a talented young Christian whose life dream is to be a major network anchorperson. In our current mind-set we would encourage him to begin the “outward spiral” described in chapter 6. Would he like to study broadcasting at a Bible college? Would he like to work for “The 700 Club” someday? If the answer is no to both questions, we’re out of options and he’s on his own. It rarely occurs to us that any assistance we could give a devoted Christian in becoming a major news anchor could be an incredibly good investment of our time and resources. That assistance will have to take new and nontraditional forms, like encouraging internships at secular corporations and providing financial assistance for education at secular colleges.”