

Mission as Transformation – Samuel Vinay

The large picture: God working with all the nations expressing sovereignty divinity. He sends the Holy Spirit to guide us in every decision we make. That is his mission.

Vinay on Mission: Individuals coming to Christ, challenging corrupt and sinful systems, structures and enabling individuals and communities to experience God's transforming power.

Vinay on Transformation: the focus in the NT is the person.

Transformation = total reorientation of an individual and relationships, empowerment, developing character.

The image of God has two dimensions – vertical and horizontal (Gen 1-3): vertical: God gives the person the ability to relate to him; horizontal: he gives the person the ability to relate to others. The poor know they need character as much as anybody else, especially since their potential to love, forgive and cope with stress and sacrifice has been distorted – they need to be restored first and then they open to the vertical and horizontal dimensions. The focus of transformation in the NT is the person.

Components of personhood:

1. ourselves + ourselves in relationships
2. the substance is the self
3. understanding our role
4. ethics
5. integrity: (=which holds together, reliable, dependable)
6. regarding others: love, compassion, acceptance, inclusion
7. ethical resistance
8. reconciliation and renewal: forgiving, healing, reconstituting, rebuilding
9. creativity, stewardship, seize the opportunity
10. prayer and worship

Personhood is realized within a community. The biblical concept of community: people in a covenant relationship. Communities are built thru people's relationships, intentions, values, perceptions of each other and their stories.

Characteristics of a community:

Communities are: justice, righteousness, order, law, truthfulness and hope,

A community with character offers freedom, equity, stewardship, truth, nurturing, love, grace, belonging, worship. Worship has social impact because it open us to see the needs, raise awareness, builds capacity for advocacy and gives energy for transformation.

The community character is shaper by the character of the persons and the community character reinforces the character of the persons. What every community needs is the Holy Spirit binding the body together.

Community and public action: thru communities we create public good and attack the evil systems of society; we need to build people, communities = our strength as evangelicals; we are capable of being with people and this is the role of the church: we need people and volunteers to do it. We build communities and use them as mighty weapons against forces of evil.

Conclusion: We need to draw on the power of the Holy Spirit who longs to empower us.