

## Basic Instinct

This morning I decided to visit a well-known Christian bookstore after having coffee with my daughter. I just wandered through the store. Just browsing... not something a man will do that often.

I found some books I liked and then started to look at the titles of the shelves. Spirit Filled living, Devotionals, Biographies, Bibles, Christian Living, Prayer, Worship, Family, Children, Relationships, Catalogues, theology, cards, gifts, Best Sellers, specials, to name a few. I began to wonder why on earth was there such a need. Then I came across a title Evangelism/Stress. Where the two linked? Some would think so I am sure. I soon saw that there were two shelves of books on evangelism and three on stress. Then it hit me.

What is the number one call of a Christian? What were we called to do above all else? What mandate have we been given? We could be forgiven in thinking that it is anything but evangelism. We may think its relationships. While they are important they are not the number one responsibility of the believer. We may think it is worship. But we can do that after we die. **What cant we do after we die?** We cant reach those who don't know Christ.

Matthew 28:20 Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

As I scanned the well-meaning shelves of this Christian bookstore I become saddened. We had lost our way. We were searching for answers, fulfilment and still not finding it. It would seem obvious then, that the lack of material on evangelism could lead to a lack of fulfilment in man.

I did a quick calculation of the number of shelves not including stands, specials etc and saw that this particular store had 145 bays of shelves. Each bay of shelves had on average 5 shelves. That would give us about 725 shelves. Yet only 2 shelves were dedicated to evangelism. That's a

staggering 99.75% of the material in this particular Christian bookstore that is dedicated to everything but the number one call/mandate of the believer. That means that only 0.25% of this bookstore is there to build the calling, the mandate of the Christian.

I was so saddened. I began to break on the inside. I felt tears come to my eyes. I caught a glimpse of the heart of God for man. What has gone wrong? Why is there so much need/desire for the other material, all of which I am sure is well meaning and in some way needed in the body of Christ. But, what about evangelism? Isn't it meant to be the 'basic instinct' of a believer?

### **What is the basic instinct of a man?**

Well many would say its sex. It's getting into bed so to speak with another human for pleasure and possible procreation. Well yes that is a definite desire. While its pleasurable it doesn't last that long so there must be more to life.

Some would say that the basic instinct of man is to gather to themselves. Yes again that is definitely a strong desire. Its definitely an instinct. We all love to get new things, have new experiences but again there must be more.

Some would say that food/eating is a basic instinct. And yes I would have to agree that food is a vital part of life. I love a good pasta and bottle of red like many others. But while food and wine for that matter is good and desired, I just know it doesn't satisfy.

All of these things and many more are definitely needed in life but they are not the basic instinct that God placed in the heart of man in the garden. They may look like it, may even feel like it at times but they are not the basic instinct.

Man's basic instinct is to be fruitful and multiply. Genesis 1:27-28 This was God's divine intention for man. He said to Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. Amazingly, anything that can help with that we desire to do. Sex helps, and its fun.. really fun so we do it. Food is nice so we eat it. Gathering is great. But they all assist the basic instinct in man-to be fruitful and multiply.

Man's greatest desire to get bigger, wiser, stronger and to be appreciated for that. In the kingdom of God we are no different. We are meant to multiply. We are meant to be fruitful.

But Ps Jude, I need to fix my relationships before I witness. I need to fix the inside of me before I share my faith. I need to get more, I need a different house, car, whatever. Yes all of those things are good, BUT we are still called to share the good news with people.

Secret: One thing I have found is that whenever we replace evangelism with self needs we lose sight of God's plan and seek even more the need to fix ourselves. We end up caught in a never-ending cycle of getting more information, more impartation. We become a dam and not a conduit.

My Desire:

I just want to see a church that is so turned on to evangelism. I want a group of people that love the building but even more love people. Not just those who are there but those who aren't. I desire a church that is so into God and His call they think up ingenious ways of getting people connected to God. I want a church, I want to be part of a church that doesn't grumble about bible study or lack there of but rather, says How can I go? How can I go into the world around me to reach the lost? How can I reach out to those who don't know God? I want to be part of a group of people that pray 'Lord, I want to reach the lost not just reach for lots'. **"Lord, while I have breathe I want to lead someone to Christ this year, every year."**