

Thinking Biblically about 2020

Week 3: What did 2020 teach us about the church?

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The Six-Way Fracturing of Evangelicalism:

(1) Neo-Fundamentalist Evangelical

- **Ministry Focus:** a narrow, spiritual, and culturally critical (separatist) version of evangelicalism
- **Christian Concerns:** the church's leftward drift, secular ideologies, and hostility to Christianity
- **Political Bent:** strongly right with a theologically leaning toward Christian nationalism
- **Response to 3rd World Culture:** culture war

(2) Mainstream Evangelical

- **Ministry Focus:** historic Evangelical aims— conversionism, activism, biblicism, & crucicentrism
- **Christian Concerns:** the fulfillment of the great commission
- **Political Bent:** generally right because of serious concern with secular left but also concerned about secular right's influence on Christianity (e.g., voted for Trump as lesser of two evils)
- **Response to 3rd World Culture:** primarily evangelistic engagement with some cultural conflict

(3) Neo-Evangelical

- **Ministry Focus:** the gospel message as well as the gospel's symptoms (e.g., issues)
- **Christian Concerns:** concerned with global Christian issues as "global evangelicals"
- **Political Bent:** feels politically homeless – concerned with the left but highly concerned with the right's acceptance of Trump failure to engage topics of race and sexuality
- **Response to 3rd World Culture:** spiritual engagement with serious concern over American politicization of Christianity (e.g., even term "Evangelical" has become "political")

(4) Post-Evangelical

- **Ministry Focus:** broader Christian bent that is very concerned to address corruption, abuse, and Christian nationalism in the church, and social justice issues outside the church.
- **Christian Concerns:** a Christianity completely distinct from the misguided "political Evangelicalism" (e.g., no longer identify as Evangelical; move to creeds, mainline denoms.)
- **Political Bent:** a political mixture with left leaning and a strong rejection of secular right
- **Response to 3rd World Culture:** social justice pursuits are core to faithful Christian mission

(5) De-Churched Evangelical – left the church entirely

(6) De-Converted Evangelical – left the Christian faith entirely

Implications – Three Types of Churches:

Type A Church – a church comprised of almost entirely 1's and 2's

Type B Church – a church comprised of almost entirely 2's and 3's

Type C Church – a church comprised of almost entirely 3's and 4's

Application:

- How does this taxonomy ("map") of Evangelicalism make sense of battles within the church?
- How can a church within this "fragmented Evangelicalism" pursue true unity after 2020?