



Gospel Ecosystem

(a way of looking at our cities)

So you said “Yes” to Jesus to Govern Your Sphere of Influence....Now What?

Jesus planted you within your *sphere of influence* (county, zip code, workplace, neighborhood, family, friend-circles, etc.), because you are uniquely wired to be a beacon of Jesus’ love in your own special way, and He gave you the authority and spiritual gifts to be both Watchman and Front-Line Infantry for significant Kingdom impact.

I know you must be thinking, “*But what does that look like, and how do I know what Jesus wants to do around me to partner with Him?*”

The answer? Ask Him! :) Then listen to His response and do what He says. He has a plan and He’s eager to share it with you.

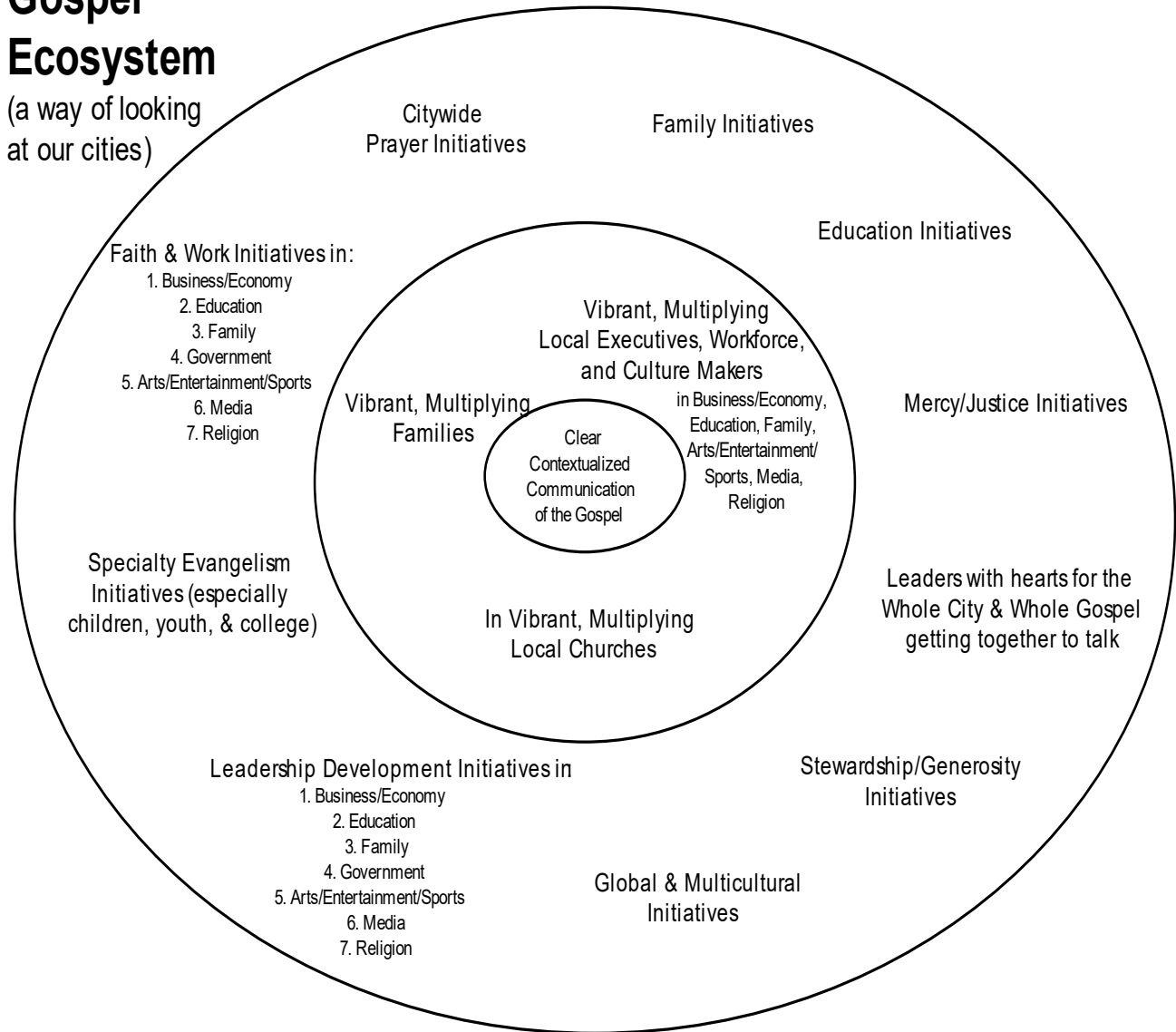


Diagram by Eric Welch based on a message on Gospel Ecosystems by Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church NYC (with additional reference to workforce, families, stewardship/generosity initiatives, global/multicultural initiatives, and the presence of the domains of society)

Jeremiah 33:2-3 says, “Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it—the Lord is his name: ***Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known*** [ESV].”

We have a tool to help you with that! Look at the picture called the “Gospel Ecosystem.” We’re going to have you use it as a brainstorm list to chat with Jesus about how He wants you to partner with Him in transforming your sphere of influence. These are prayer PROMPTS, so don’t put Jesus in a box. He may not want you to focus on a specific item listed here and instead lay something similar, but different, on your heart.

Use the Exercises below to discover how Jesus wants to use you. Commit to completing all 3 Exercises within 1-2 weeks, and then set up a meeting with Kris Castro afterwards to share what you learned.

EXERCISE 1: Block out 30 minutes

- 1) Pray over everything in the outer circle of the picture, one by one, SLOWLY – pausing between each item. Have a pen/paper ready to write down anything you sense or think about as you are praying. You don’t have to make any decisions right now....this exercise is a spiritual brainstorm with Jesus;
- 2) When you are done, ask Jesus if there’s anything else He wants to share with you and write that down
- 3) Take the list and put it inside your Bible and leave it alone until the next day.

EXERCISE 2: Block out 30 minutes

Jesus is the Great Restorer & Redeemer. He wants to restore and redeem everything that is out of alignment with His Kingdom within your sphere of influence. As His Kingdom Partner, you have a role in that – but are not responsible to do it all. Today, block out 30 minutes and:

- 1) Pray through the list you created yesterday asking for more specific information (Who? What? Where?);
- 2) Ask Jesus – what things or people groups do you want to Redeem and Restore within my sphere of influence? Silently listen for 15 minutes, or until He answers you, then write it down.
- 3) Once you have that information, ask Jesus Why it’s important to Him and write it down
- 4) Thank Jesus for trusting you with His Vision for your sphere of influence and wrap up your prayer time with Him however you like.

EXERCISE 3: Scripture Confirmation – Everything you do as you Govern your sphere of influence must align with Jesus’ Word. Block out 1 hour and:

- 1) Search online for scripture passages that align with what Jesus told you in Exercise 1 and 2. They can be stories with similar themes, verses containing directives or commands, etc. Write as many down as you can find.
- 2) Take each verse or whole passage and ask Jesus to personalize it for your assignment (insert your name or the thing/people group into the passage)
- 3) Read it 2-3 times to get a deep awareness of how Jesus wants to partner with you.

- 4) From that passage or scripture, write out a Declaration of your divine assignment and post it in locations that you can regularly see it and read it.
- 5) When you are confident (even mostly confident is good!) that you know what Jesus wants you to govern within your sphere of influence, share that information with Kris Castro and the rest of the A2E4 Initiative so they can be praying for you and support you.

HOW TO DEVELOP A GOVERNING LIFESTYLE:

1. To maintain a “Not On My Watch!!” Watchman mindset (stepping into your governing responsibility):
 - Keep track of the local news and events going on within your sphere of influence.
 - Keep your eyes (physical and spiritual) on what’s going on around you wherever you are
 - Keep your ears tuned to Jesus so He can point out anything He wants you to do or know “in the moment” about as you go about your day
 - As you hear of needs within your community or learn of situations that need to be addressed through prayer or discover circumstances that require “boots on the ground” support, let everyone in the A2E4 Initiative know so they can prayerfully discern how to support you as you partner with Jesus
2. To initiate the Infantry aspect of your governing responsibility:
 - Do everything through the lens of love, because Jesus loves everyone around you – especially those that are causing chaos, hurting others, or desire harm to you
 - Develop and deepen your spiritual discernment to know when to pray or when to act (or both): Sometimes you can’t do anything about a situation just yet, and instead Jesus just wants you to pray and break spiritual ground first before He is ready for you to go in and take care of it. Sometimes He’s ready to address something and He desires to partner with you to do it. Make sure you ask HOW He wants it handled and then obediently do what He says.

I’m so excited to see each of us working together to build Kingdom Communities around Metro-Atlanta, and look forward to hearing the testimonies of how Jesus showed up and showed off within your sphere of influence.

As always, I’m here if you need anything. Contact me by phone or email and I’ll do my best to get back to you as soon as I can.