

### THE CALL TO PHILIPPI



The roundabout way may not be the most direct route, but it represents a wonderful era in the spiritual life when God shows up in very tangible ways that assure us of his presence on the journey.

Ruth Haley Barton

# PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN PHILIPPI

I believe that no matter how tedious, unimaginative, banal, unconvincing, and seemingly irrelevant the Church's proclamation of the mystery of a loving God often is - or how cheapened, flamboyant, phony, if you happen to watch some of the religious vaudeville available on American tv - that mystery is as much a part of reality as the air we breathe.

Frederick Buechner

How do we bring the good new of Jesus without the coercion and cultural baggage that seems to do so much damage?

Jon Tyson

## Lydia

## Oppressed Girl

# Jailer

### INVITATIONS

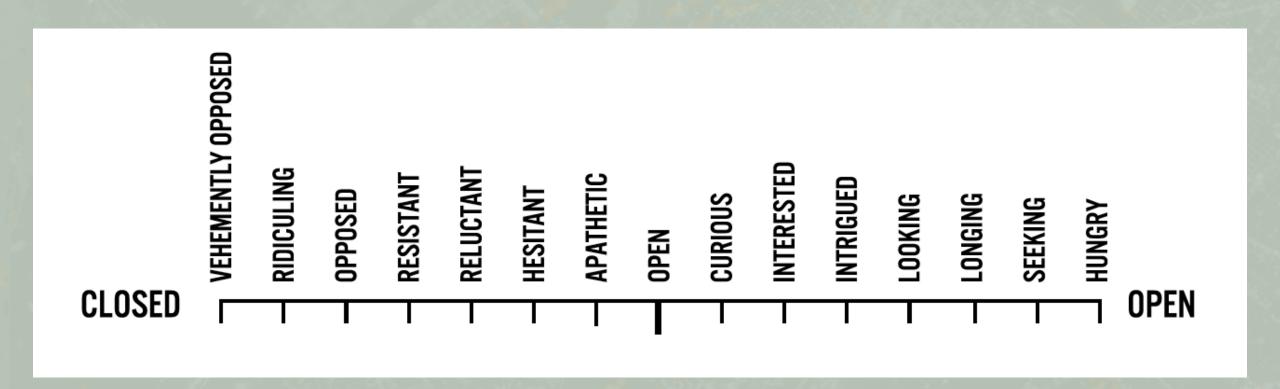
God's heart is to seek and save the lost. Our job is to watch where he is at work and join him.

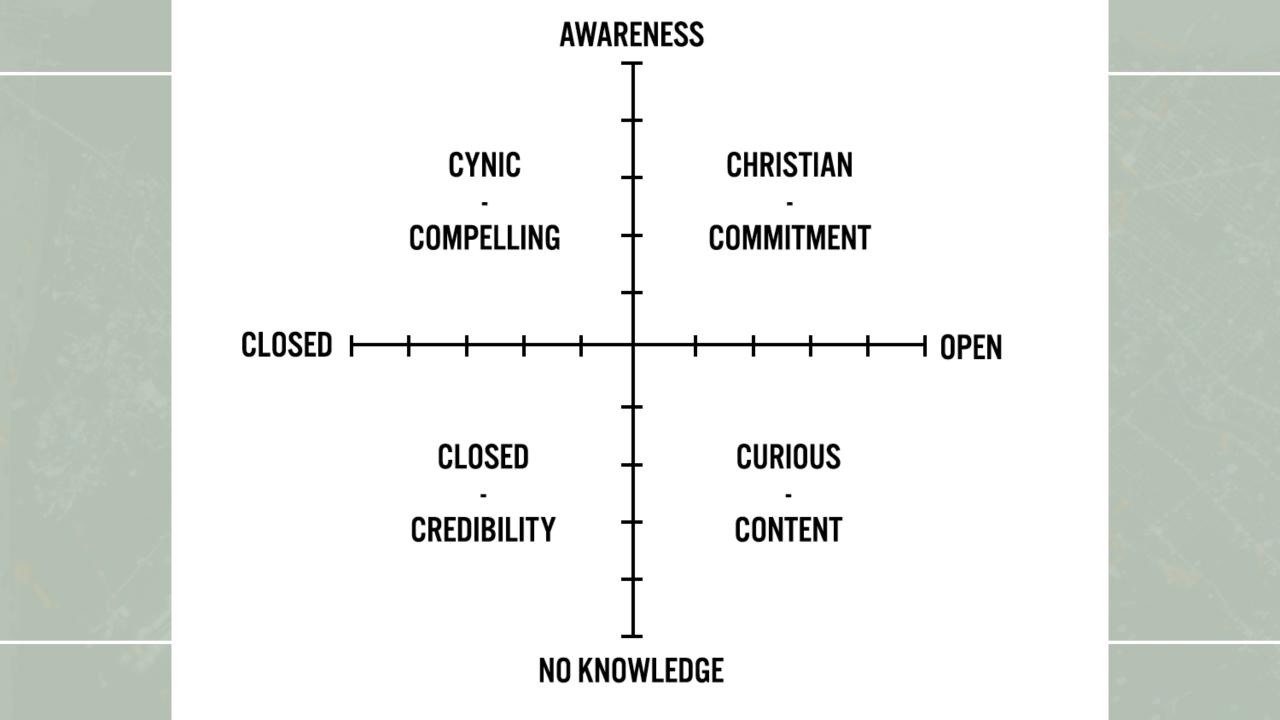


# Evangelism should be holistic, flexible, and communal

### The Gray Matrix







I thought of a rather cruel trick I once played on a wasp. He was sucking jam on my plate and I cut him in half. He paid no attention, merely went on with his meal, while a tiny stream of jam trickled out of his severed esophagus. Only when he tried to fly away did he grasp the dreadful thing that had happened to him. It is the same with modern man. The thing that has been cut away is his soul.

George Orwell

You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32

As Christians, we are often unaware that our beliefs are frequently shaped more by our culture than by the gospel. We take our Christianity to be biblically based and normative for everyone. We do not stop to ask what parts of it come from our sociocultural and historical contexts, and what parts come from Scripture...We fail to recognize that many of the assumptions and values that underlie our culture are not biblically based. They are our human creations. Paul Hiebert We must live in the kingdom of God in such a way that it provokes questions for which the gospel is the only answer.

Leslie Newbigin

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

#### The Moral Ecology of the Early Church:

- Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic
- Caring for the poor and marginalized
- Non-retaliation marked by forgiveness & reconciliation
- Strongly and practically against abortion & infanticide
- Sexual wholeness