

**SHALOM IN THE CITY:
A CONTEXTUALIZED GOSPEL VISION FOR URBAN FLOURISHING**

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SHALOM OF THE CITY

Jeremiah 29:4-7

Shalom: _____

Jesus didn't begin with _____; he began with shalom, and _____ followed.

HERMENEUTICAL CIRCLE

Eldin Villafañe's Hermeneutical Circle:

The "circle" is the ongoing movement between God's Word and the realities of people's lives, especially among the poor, marginalized, and oppressed.

Clarification (_____)

Conceptualization (_____)

Confrontation (_____)

Context, Theology, Praxis.

CONTEXT (SEEING)

Before preaching, teaching, or "fixing," the church must _____

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Villafañe argues we must simultaneously study:

- _____
- _____
- _____



In urban mission, looking at the context means recognizing realities like: Poverty, racism, immigration struggles, gang violence, family fragmentation, spiritual oppression, economic exploitation, cultural resilience, loneliness, etc.

Jesus Himself clarified reality constantly:

“They are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

We begin with holy discernment. Not assumptions. Actual listening. Actual seeing.

THEOLOGY (UNDERSTANDING)

Now the church asks: _____

This is the theological reflection stage.

Lived experience is brought into dialogue with Scripture, theology, and the Spirit’s guidance.

Conceptualizing our theology involves:

- _____
- _____
- _____

This stage matters because without theology we are doing mere _____

Jesus did not minister from a distance:

“The Word (theology) became flesh and dwelt among us (context).” (John 1:14)

Theology becomes embodied among real people experiencing real suffering.

Not just, “How do people get to heaven?”

But also... “What does the reign of God look like here, now, in the city?”

PRAXIS (RESPONDING)

This is where theology becomes action.

We begin by _____, we follow by _____,
and end with a _____.



The church now confronts:

- Personal sin
- Oppressive systems
- Spiritual strongholds
- Injustice
- Broken social realities...through the power of the Gospel.

This can include preaching, discipleship, advocacy, community organizing, prayer, prophetic witness, compassion ministries, Urban Centers of Influence, etc.

Urban Centers of Influence: Small to mid-scale institutions, wellness centers, clinics, academic hubs, mental-health resources, sports spaces among others, that woven into the fabric of the city.

(Visit Urbancenters.org)

The idea is to have _____ respond with action through people through _____.

A CIRCLE

We see (_____),

We understand (_____),

We respond (_____).

... and a _____ is created.

The goal is never a trendy project, _____

THE CHURCH & THE CITY

A Church _____ the city (_____)

A Church _____ the city (_____)

A Church _____ the city (_____)

How do we begin to see?
