

Table 1
Outside-In (Fast Growth) and Inside-Out (Deep Growth) Approaches
To Planting and Growing Churches

Key Differences in Missional Theology, Ecclesiology, and Evangelism Strategy

Characteristic	Outside-In Approach (Fast Growth)	Inside-Out Approach (Deep Growth)
Theological Basis for Christian Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctrinal agreement • Uniformity of belief • Conformity to Church's teachings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bound by Christ's Love • Common worship • Power/mystery of the living God
Approach to Truth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propositional (e.g., the truths of Jesus Christ) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relational (e.g., the Truth is Jesus Christ)
Approach to Orthodoxy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad (assent to wide spectrum of doctrine/teaching) • <i>Kerygma/Didache</i> given equal weight • Individually confessional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow/ kerygmatic (focused on core, paradoxical dogmas) • <i>Kerygma</i> over <i>Didache</i> • Communally creedal
Approach to Evangelism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proselytizing (inviting to convert to Christianity or "orthodoxy") • Making converts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relational (inviting to relationship with Christ and the Body of Christ) • Making friends, disciples (lit. learners)
Role of the Evangelist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell the story • "Close the deal" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell the story • Invite into community
Paradigm of Conversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Proseleo</i> (externally encouraged change of allegiance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Metanoia</i> (inward turning toward relationship (with Christ))
Rel. of Conversion to Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First conversion • Then full fellowship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First full fellowship • Then fellowship causes conversion
Paradigm of Discipleship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obedience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call
Approach to "Relevance"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility in forms (liturgy, building, etc.) • Inflexibility in core doctrines & teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authenticity in inner spiritual life • More traditional in forms
Worship Site/Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secular space is O.K. (school, movie theater) • Transiency of spiritual use (school, movie theater) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacred space preferred (church, synagogue) • Permanency of spiritual use (church, synagogue, permanent commercial space)
Central Liturgical Symbol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulpit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altar
Primary Biblical Exegetical Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking answers from the text • What does the Bible say about _____? • What does it tell me to do? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In dialogue with the text (like Midrash) • What questions do I have of the text? • What questions does it ask of me?
Primary Biblical Teaching Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Epistles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gospels
Dominant Mode of Preaching/Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposition (deductive/outside-In) • (1) What do the Bible/Church's teachings say? • (2) How do these principles apply to my life? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story (intuitive/inductive/inside-out) • (1) What issues is God presenting me in my life? • (2) How do the Bible/Church's teachings apply?
Role of Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping people in line • "I make sure people are rowing the right direction, or get them off the boat." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the people engaged in discernment • "My primary job is articulating the vision."
Orientation to Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict is evidence of dysfunction • One side must be wrong • Resolve conflict by conversion or exclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict is natural result of authenticity • All of us are a little wrong • Resolve conflict by communication and commitment to communion
Diocesan Support & Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Just in time" purchase of property • Late move to permanent site (longer time in secular space) • Short-term, limited, financial support • Waiting to bless success • Infrequent presence of bishop & staff • Weak support from surrounding congregations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early purchase of property • Early move to permanent site (even if in temporary structure) • Long-term commitment of finances/resources • Planning to succeed • Frequent presence of bishop & staff • Strong support from surrounding congregations