

Project vs. Relationship Quick Guide

As followers of Christ, stepping into an incarnational lifestyle requires a fundamental shift in how we view our neighbors. We are called to move away from treating people as evangelism "projects" and instead embrace them with genuine friendship. Below is a diagnostic framework to evaluate our missional behavior and ask ourselves:

"What does it look like to operate as someone pursuing genuine relationship?"

<i>The "Project" Posture</i>	<i>The "Relationship" Posture</i>
<i>"Come and see"</i>	<i>"Go and be" — embed in culture</i>
<i>Happens in church contexts only</i>	Happens in neutral spaces
<i>Goal is conversion</i>	Relationship alone is valid & valuable
<i>People believing creates a belonging</i>	Belonging precedes belief
<i>Others do the discipling (via programs)</i>	Life-on-life mentoring in everyday life
<i>I view the unchurched as a demographic or "work" to be done</i>	I view human beings with a complex story deserving of empathy

Considerations:

Evaluate Your Spaces: Look at your weekly calendar. How much of your time is spent inviting people into "church contexts" versus intentionally embedding yourself in "neutral spaces"?

Examine Your Motives: When engaging with someone outside the faith, is your underlying motivation to complete "work to be done," or are you genuinely valuing the relationship for what it is?

Rethink Discipleship: How can you shift from relying on programs to embracing "life-on-life" mentoring in your normal, everyday routines?