

At a personal level, he took a deep interest in many students and student workers. Sometimes, when we get close to a Christian leader, we can be disappointed. Many have said of John, however, that the closer they got to him the more impressed they were by his godly lifestyle, his prayerfulness, his walk with Christ and his deep interest in people. He was perhaps the outstanding global evangelical statesman of the last 50 years, but also a servant and mentor to many students and graduates in universities globally. We thank God for him and for the privilege of having known him.

Lindsay Brown

General Secretary

of International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (1991-2007)

International Director

of the Lausanne Movement for World Evangelization (2008-present)

John Stott's legacy is the solid foundation that he laid for evangelical Christians in the twenty-first century to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ according to the scriptures. His life, vision and ministry were truly global. In 1951 when still a young man he was one of the architects of the renewed World Evangelical Fellowship (now the WEA). He worked on the new constitution and drafted its Preamble which has been quoted many thousands of times during the years.

As in all he did, John grounded the purposes of the reconstituted WEF in scripture by quoting from the Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians. The stated purpose of the WEA is:

The furtherance of the Gospel (Phil. 1. 12)

The defense and confirmation of the Gospel (Phil. 1. 7)

Our fellowship in the Gospel (Phil. 1. 5).

His close support for the WEA never wavered. His contributions to the work of the WEA Theological Commission were immensely valuable and helped establish solid Biblical training and theology in much of the Majority World. The WEA has lost one of its founding fathers. There was something about his boldness in proclaiming the truth that rubbed off on those who wanted to do the same but were somewhat reticent. The whole of the worldwide evangelical movement in the past sixty years has been emboldened by his commitment to truth and proclamation.

Although many of the 600 million evangelical Christians may never have heard of John Stott, almost without exception they will have been unconsciously influenced through what they or their pastors have read from his pen. The whole of the leadership of the WEA acknowledges with great thankfulness to God the legacy that John Stott has left behind to encourage and guide us.

Geoff Tunncliffe

*Chief Executive Officer/Secretary General
World Evangelical Alliance*

For me John Stott is a role model as an impressive master of complementarity. He never sought to emphasize one important thing at the expense of other important things. Let me state some of those complementarities by comparing John Stott to Paul – something he surely would have very much disliked!

Like Paul he was a pastor, a missionary and a theologian at the same time. His academic theology was always for the body of Christ, not his academic colleagues.

Like Paul he was a master thinker and systematic writer, trying to pour the whole faith into even a short book and yet he never wrote in an abstruse way to impress academics, but so that the whole church could benefit.

Like Paul he was willing to strive for the gospel and yet he was a man of peace, a bridgebuilder, someone listening to other opinions very thoroughly and trying to understand them. He was convinced that unity would not come from less good theology, but from more open studying of the Bible together across all lines.

Like Paul he was as local as he was global. He managed to write, speak and travel to the world, while being totally dedicated to personal counselling, to his local congregation and the mentoring of those close to him.

Like Paul he became world famous, and yet stayed the humble servant, that never understood how Jesus could use him in such a way.

Like Paul, he was convinced that preaching the gospel is essential and central, but at the same time he showed compassion to the needy worldwide. He saw everything through the lens of the gospel, knowing that only the cross can overcome the sins of pride, racism, mammon, hatred, sexual abuse etc., and inspired many people to get engaged against those social evils.

Thomas Schirrmacher

*Executive Chair of the Theological Commission
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