

Taking the Gospel to the Streets



What is your definition of evangelism?

What is evangelism?

Evangelism, according to this definition, means presenting Christ Jesus and His work in relation to the needs of fallen men and women, who are without God as a father and under the wrath of God as a Judge. Evangelism means presenting Christ Jesus to them as their only hope, in this world or the next. Evangelism means exhorting sinners to accept Christ Jesus as their savior, recognizing that in the most final and far-reaching sense they are lost without Him. Evangelism also means summoning men to receive Christ Jesus as all that He is – Lord, as well as savior-and therefore to serve Him as their King in the fellowship of His Church, the company of those who worship Him, witness to Him, and work for Him here on earth. In other words, evangelism is the issuing of a call to turn, as well as to trust; it is the delivering, not merely of a divine invitation to receive a Savior, but of a divine command to repent of sin. And there is no evangelism where this specific application is not made.¹

Evangelize Why

Why do we evangelize?

Luke 4:16-21

Matthew 28: 19-20

Mark 16:15-18

Luke 24:44-49

Mark 1:14-17

Evangelism should never be viewed as a difficult duty or combat assignment. We are not commanded to hit people over the head and drag them against their will into the

¹ Packer, JL; Evangelism and The Sovereignty of God. Downers Grove, Illinois, Inter Varsity Press (1991) page 39-40

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kingdom. Rather, we are instructed to share the good news about Jesus in such a way that others will clearly see Him for themselves, recognizing their own sinfulness and need, and acknowledge Him as their Lord and Savior.²

Who is responsible for evangelism?

The first and most obvious principle then is that the Church is a body under orders by Christ to share the Gospel with the whole world. But the question then arises, how is this to be done and by whom?³

We are commanded to go, preach, teach, and make disciples, but only the Holy Spirit can convict and change hearts.

You do the evangelism. You are the tool in which the message is delivered, not the tool of saving.

Our business is to present the Christian faith clothed in modern terms, not to propagate modern thought clothed in Christian terms. Confusion here is fatal.

J. I. Packer - [Evangelism]

Analogy

Suppose that in our modern secular world, the center for propaganda in Moscow dreamed up a new idea. They polished it very carefully and then began to spread it abroad. It would appear first of all in some avant-garde publications, coming to the surface in magazine and newspaper articles. Perhaps a play would be made out of it, then a motion

² Beoucher, Sharon and Dorsett, Mary; Women & Evangelism An Evangelistic Lifestyle from a Woman's Perspective. Wheaton, Illinois, Billy Graham Center Institute of Evangelism (1994) Page 6

³ Kennedy, D James; Evangelism Explosion. Grand Canyon, Illinois, Tyndale House Publisher (1983) Page 2

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picture, and finally television production. Groups would be formed to push the movement, protests would be made, and finally the idea would prevail and be accepted by the American people almost unanimously. What is the idea? It is this: that wars are very dangerous complicated operations and ordinary person could get hurt needlessly; therefore, they should go home and let the generals and admirals fight wars.⁴

Right away we say, That is ridiculous! Such a ludicrous idea could never be put over on any people. Yet in the church this, in essence, is exactly what Satan has done! I am certain that for the vast majority of Christian church members the idea has firmly taken root in their minds that it is primarily the task of the minister to fight the battles of Christ.⁵

So successful has Satan been with this strategy, it has been estimated that probably 9.5 percent of American church members have never led anyone to Christ.⁶

Early church scattered Acts 8:1-4

Evangelism was not a duty or an occupation for the early church.

Evangelism is a way of life. Not only did all the early Christians witness, but they witnessed daily and to everyone they met-especially to those who were in their network of friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors. In the New Testament, it is very evident that evangelism was not a special activity to be undertaken at a prescribed time, such as a once a-year crusade or a once a week visitation effort, but it was the constant overflow of individual and corporate experienced and knowledge of Christ.⁷

⁴ Kennedy, D James; Evangelism Explosion. Grand Canyon, Illinois, Tyndale House Publisher (1983) Page 2

⁵ Ibid Page 3

⁶ Ibid Page 4

⁷ Ibid

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From the time of Jesus return to heaven and the end of the book of Acts (around forty years) the church grew from an original band of about 500 to approximately 200,000 believers.⁸

What is the message?

Starts with God

What do you know about God?

Genesis 1:1

Who God is? What is His character? What are his standards and what does He require of us?

He is creator, holy, and He requires holiness. *Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).*

Man's Heart Condition and Judgment

We are in sin and there is nothing that we can do about it ourselves. Define sin. Sin separates us from God. We are in need of a savior, (Romans 3:23).

There is a punishment for sin—permanent separation from God (Romans 6:23).

To preach sin means not to make capital out peoples felt frailties, but to measure their lives by the holy law of God. To be convicted of sin means not just to feel that one is an

⁸ Beoucher, Sharon and Dorsett, Mary; *Women & Evangelism An Evangelistic Lifestyle from a Woman's Perspective*. Wheaton, Illinois, Billy Graham Center Institute of Evangelism (1994) page 7

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all-around flop, but to realize that one has offended God, and flouted His authority, and defied Him, and gone against Him and put oneself in the wrong with Him.⁹

God showed his love to man by sending his son to die and take the punishment for our sin. 5:8

Christ died and was buried and rose again on the third day 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

You have to choose to make Jesus your savior Romans 10:9-10

The evangelistic message is the gospel of Christ, and Him crucified; the message of man's sin and God grace, of human guilt and divine forgiveness, of new birth and new life through the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is made up of four essential ingredients: about God, sin, Christ and a summons to faith and repentance.¹⁰

Examples of the Message

Jesus - Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15 –What was Jesus' Message

"But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must

⁹ Packer, JL; Evangelism and The Sovereignty of God. Downers Grove, Illinois, Inter Varsity Press (1991) Page 61

¹⁰ Packer, JL; Evangelism and The Sovereignty of God. Downers Grove, Illinois, Inter Varsity Press (1991) page 58

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receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. "Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you. 'And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'" And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days. "It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.' "For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways." **Acts 3:17-26**

Peter - Acts 17:22-31

Paul – Acts 10:34-43

Wrong Message

What is the wrong message?

Not trying to soothe man or cheer him up

Make him feel confident

Don't present Christ in terms of man's felt wants such as are you happy

Are you satisfied?

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Do you want peace of mind?
Do you feel you have failed and are fed up with yourself?
Do you need a friend then come to Jesus?

How do you evangelize?

The attitude which Paul evangelized was with love, 2 Thessalonians 2:4-7. All our own evangelism must be done in the same spirit. As love to our neighbor suggest and demands that we evangelize, so the command to evangelize is a specific application of the command to love others for Christ sake, and must be fulfilled as such.¹¹

Preparation for Evangelism

The body of Christ needs to be trained on how to evangelize. We have been dormant for so long that the majority of Christians are afraid to tell others about Christ. What are they afraid of?

¹¹ Packer, JL; Evangelism and The Sovereignty of God. Downers Grove, Illinois, Inter Varsity Press (1991) Page 52