

Everyone You Will Meet Will Live Forever – The Call to Personal Evangelism

Biblical Foundations for Evangelism

What is evangelism? Evangelism does not occur in the Bible, but the word Evangel (meaning “good news”) does. It was a word that was used when the enemy was defeated or when a prince was born, appropriate illustrations of the gospel of Jesus Christ of the coming of the Prince and the defeat of the greatest enemy. How thankful we should be for the gospel! What more can we say about the gospel?

1. ***It is the gospel of God*** (Rom. 1:1). It is not a human invention. It is not something man made up (Gal. 1:12), not determined by a committee; not a spiritual manifesto from the greatest and godliest men. It is the gospel of God. That is encouraging because it means we don't have to be troubled when people are offended by it or reject it. We don't have to change it because it is what God is saying to them. This is also challenging, because that means we need to know it, study it, learn its message.
2. ***It is the gospel concerning Christ*** (Rom. 1:3). It has to do with a Person, not a Philosophy. Who is the gospel? Who Jesus is and what Jesus did. Evangelism is not speaking about yourself, but about Him.
3. ***It is the gospel revealing righteousness*** (Rom. 1:17). It tells us about the righteousness of God and how I can be righteous before God. You cannot earn it, but He gives it

Great Commission calling to Evangelism

Why should we engage in evangelism? Because reconciliation can be found in Christ and is to be held out to others. “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor. 5:18). Sin means that we are hostile against God and God is hostile against us.

1. ***The needs of men confronts us***. Man is lost to God and a slave to sin and Satan, without God and hope in this world ((1 Jn. 5:19b; Eph. 2:12; 2 Thess. 1:8-9).
2. ***The word of God commands us*** (Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15; Lk 14:23). This is not just the task of church leaders, but for every Christian.
3. ***The love of Christ constrains us*** (2 Cor. 5:14). The love of Christ motivates us, whereby He gave Himself to the death of the cross.
4. ***The glory of God concerns us***. Do we seek this? That God would be glorified by our witness, by telling the gospel to others? Prov. 14:28

Important Qualifications for Evangelism

The Lord is sovereign and can use anyone at any time. He can use a donkey to witness to Balaam, but there are certain things that should mark the Christian generally and in evangelizing specifically.

1. ***We need to be people who've experienced mercy.*** Yes, we try to build relationships with others, but the most important relationship in evangelism is the relationship with God. Those who tell the good news to others must believe the good news themselves.
2. ***We need to be people of prayer.*** We need time alone with God, unhurried and private communion with God in prayer. Evangelism does not begin with conversion with people, but conversing with God. Do we pray for others who we know are lost? Blanchard: "Evangelism without prayer is like trying to launch a space shuttle with a peashooter."
3. ***We need to be people of the word*** (Jn. 5:35). The scriptures testify of Him, and we need to read, study and know them.
4. ***We need to be people of love*** (1 Cor. 13). Jesus was filled with compassion at the multitudes because He saw them as sheep without a shepherd. Without compassion, humanly speaking, we won't touch the hearts of others

Significant Regulations for Evangelism

1. ***Be pliable***
2. ***Be particular***
3. ***Be polite***
4. ***Be persevering***
5. ***Be prayerful***
6. ***Be pure***
7. ***Be prepared***

Practical Implementations of Evangelism

People need to be confronted with the reality of sin (Rom. 3:23; Is. 53:6; Prov. 20:9), the misery of sin (Is. 59:1-2; Rom. 6:23; 2 Thess. 1:9), and the remedy of sin (Is. 53:6; Jn. 3:16; 1 Pet. 3:18). How do we deal with people who say...

1. "I don't believe there is a God."
2. "If God exists, why is there so much suffering and misery?"
3. "I don't believe the Bible is the word of God."

4. "I am good enough."
5. "I am too bad."
6. "I will think about it later."