

Reaching The Lost: Evangelism

Session Two: Why Should We Evangelize?

Review

- Introduction: What is Evangelism?
 - Evangelism is telling others the good news about what Jesus Christ has done to save sinners and calling them to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus. It is sharing the gospel message.
 - Evangelism is not:
 - Personal Testimony
 - Social Action
 - Apologetics (Classical or Evidential)
 - The results of evangelism
- Session One: Who Should Evangelize?
 - The Bible calls *all Christians* to share the good news about Jesus's death and resurrection with those who don't believe in Christ. (Acts 8:1-4, Matt 28:18-20)

Getting Started

- What are some of the reasons we sometimes lack the motivation to evangelize?
- What are some potentially bad motivations for evangelizing?

Main Idea

The Bible gives us many different motivations to evangelize, which is something many of us need because we often lack motivation to evangelize.

Digging In

In this study, we're going to consider several biblical reasons why we should evangelize. First, as we considered in session 1, we should evangelize because the Bible commands all of us to (Matthew 28:19-20). In saving us, God made us to be His ambassadors and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:17-20). In 1 Corinthians 10:32-11:1, Paul also exhorts the Corinthians to follow His evangelistic example.

- The first and most basic motivation for evangelism is obedience – being who God made us to be and doing what God commanded us to do.

As Christians, though we long to obey the Lord, it can be difficult to muster up motivation out of a sheer sense of obligation, especially in the case of something as difficult as evangelism. Thankfully, God mercifully gives us several other motivations in His Word that should spur us on to evangelism. Consider what Paul writes in Romans 9 & 10 .

Read Romans 9:1-3 and Romans 10:1

1. Why does Paul have great sorrow and anguish in His heart?
2. Based on Romans 10:1 and what we learn from the rest of the New Testament, what does Paul's concern for his fellow Jews motivate him to do? (Consider Acts 13:5, 14:1, 17:1-3, 18:4)
3. What motive for evangelism does this text give us? How does this help when I lack motivation to obey?
4. What are some practical ways you can grow in cultivating and expressing love for non-Christians?

Read John 15:8-11

5. What are the results of our bearing much fruit through obeying Jesus's commands? (vs 8 & vs 11)
6. How does evangelism in particular bring glory to God? How does this encourage us to persevere in evangelism?
7. In this passage, Jesus explains that our obedience not only glorifies God, but that He has given us command to obey in order that our joy may be full (vs 11). How is the promise of obtaining full joy especially encouraging when you consider evangelism?

Read 1 Peter 3:13-18a

8. What are the two main things Peter commands in this passage? (vs 15 & vs 17-18)
9. What has Christ done for sinners who trust Him? And what is the result for those who trust in Christ (vs 18).
10. How should Christ's suffering for us and God's acceptance of us through Christ motivate us to both share the gospel with others and be willing to suffer for Christ's sake?
11. What are some ways that sharing the gospel with others and suffering for Christ's sake might go hand in hand?

Reflect on the biblical motivations we've identified in this study:

- Obedience (Matt 28:18-20, 1 Cor 10:32-11:1)
 - Love for others (Rom 9:1-3, 10:1)
 - The desire to glorify God (John 15:8)
 - Having our own joy made complete through obedience (John 15:11)
 - Christ's suffering for us and God's acceptance of us (1 Peter 3:18)
12. Are any of these motivations new or particularly helpful to you?
 13. Consider how you will meditate on these truths and be stirred up with biblical motivations to evangelize.