

Reaching The Lost: Evangelism

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. Evangelism is sharing the gospel message.
 - Evangelism is not: A specific method (it's a message, not a method), Personal Testimony, Social Action, Apologetics, 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)
- Session 2: Why Should We Evangelize?
 - Because we love the lost, because our own Joy is magnified through obedience, because Christ suffered for us to reconcile us to God, and ultimately because it brings glory to God. (Matt 28:19-20, 1 Cor 10:32-11:1, Rom 9:1-3, 10:1, John 15:8-11, 1 Pet 3:13-18)

Session Three: How Should We Evangelize? (part 1 of 3)

Getting Started

Over the next three studies, we're going to consider more practically *how* we should evangelize. All methods of evangelism should be shaped by and built upon the biblical instruction in these three sessions.

- As a way to begin thinking about how to evangelize, let's consider that there can be both right/honest ways to evangelize, and there can also be misguided ways of trying to win people to Jesus.
 - Can you think of some of the most sound biblical advice you've been given on how to evangelize?
 - Can you think of some misguided (even if well-intended) ways that Christians might try to win others to Jesus?

Main Idea

We should evangelize honestly and urgently. (2 Cor 4:1-6, 2 Cor 5:20-6:2)

Digging In

In 2 Corinthians, Paul describes his own evangelistic commitments as an apostle. Let's consider the following text and as we identify how Paul is committed to evangelize, let's consider how we might be instructed ourselves.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

1. What has Paul renounced (vs 2)?
2. What does Paul refuse to do (vs 2)?
3. What are some examples of disgraceful, underhanded ways or practicing cunning and tampering with God's word?
4. Why might it be tempting to tamper with God's word when we evangelize?
5. Instead of practicing cunning, how is Paul committed to speak the gospel to others (vs 2)?
 - a. What is meant by "the open statement of truth"?

In following Paul's example, we should evangelize *honestly*. We should proclaim the truth of the gospel *openly*. We should do this, as Paul says, in order to commend ourselves to others' consciences *before God*. However our unbelieving friends might respond to the gospel, we are accountable to God for being honest with them and sharing the message faithfully. We should evangelize honestly.

6. What are some things that might tempt you to not share the gospel openly and honestly? How can you work to overcome those temptations?
 - a. How is this idea of preaching openly and honestly connected to current cultural/social issues?

In 2 Corinthians 5 and 6, Paul further elaborates on his commitments as an evangelist

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2

7. In verse 20, Paul says that as an ambassador of Christ, God makes His appeal through Him. What is that appeal?
8. What does it mean to implore someone? What does this reveal about how Paul engaged in evangelism?
9. What does Paul appeal to the Corinthians not to do (6:1)?
10. According to 6:2, why is it urgent that the Corinthians be reconciled to God?

Based on Paul's example in these verses, we should evangelize *urgently*. Now is the time of salvation. Now is the time when God extends mercy to all who turn from their sin and trust in Christ. That's why Paul implores the Corinthians to be reconciled to God and appeals to them not to receive the grace of God (this proclamation of the gospel) in vain.

11. Would you say that your evangelism is typically characterized by an appropriate urgency? If not, why not?
12. What are some examples of:
 - a. A wrong urgency in evangelism?
 - b. A right urgency in evangelism?