

Fundamentals of Our Faith from the Beginning
Understanding the Church
The Mission of the Church (Part One): Evangelism

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.

- In order to do this, you must tell others that:
 - God is the creator of all things (Gen 1:1). He is holy and righteous (1 John 1:5).
 - All people are sinners who deserve God's righteous, eternal wrath (Mk 9:48; Rom 3:10-19; Rev 14:11) ▪ Christ, who is fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to bear God's wrath in the place of all who would believe in him, and rose from the grave in order to give his people eternal life (John 1:1, 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 7:26, Rom. 3:21-26, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Cor. 15:20-22).
 - The only way to be saved from eternal punishment and be reconciled to God is to repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; Romans 10:9-10)

This is the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ. Evangelism is simply telling others this basic message and calling them to repent of sin and trust in Christ.

1. Why is "telling" a necessary part of evangelism? (Romans 10)
2. What kind of things can be mistaken for or substituted for evangelism?
3. Discuss the difference between evangelism and "pre-evangelism".

The Marching Orders

Read Matthew 28:18-20

4. What does Jesus command his followers to do (vs 19)? Where does evangelism fit with this?
5. How is this Great Commission connected to God's original purpose for humanity and the Cultural mandate (Genesis 1:26-28)?
6. Why is Jesus's statement about His authority and His presence with us especially comforting in this assignment? (v 18, 20)?

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.

Read Acts 8:1-4

7. Who was scattered by the persecution in Jerusalem (vs 1)?
8. Who went about preaching the word, that is, the good news about Jesus (vs 4)? 9. What does this tell us about the early Christians' understanding of who should evangelize? 10. Are all Christians expected to evangelize in the same ways?

How Should We Evangelize? We should evangelize honestly and urgently.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

11. What has Paul renounced (vs 2)?
12. What does Paul refuse to do (vs 2)?
13. What are some examples of disgraceful, underhanded ways or practicing cunning and tampering with God's word?
14. Why might it be tempting to tamper with God's word when we evangelize?
15. 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"?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2

16. In verse 20, Paul says that as an ambassador of Christ, God makes His appeal through Him. What is that appeal?
17. What does it mean to implore someone? What does this reveal about how Paul engaged in evangelism? 18.

What does Paul appeal to the Corinthians not to do (6:1)?

19. According to 6:2, why is it urgent that the Corinthians be reconciled to God?