

Essentials of Evangelism

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Introduction: A sign of spiritual sickness is a lack of evangelism.

- A. A strong faith will always speak.
 - 1. The simplicity of evangelism lies in a trust in God that controls our heart.
 - 2. When we know Jesus and what he did we “cannot but speak” what we know. **(Acts 4:18-20)**
 - 3. When threatened they again told them they would not be quiet! **(Acts 5:27-29, 40-42)**
 - 4. I doubt the Sanhedrin would have many problems with the modern day “disciple.”
- B. A weak faith will do other things.
 - 1. Some will appeal to numbers as a sign of “life.”
 - 2. The Lord does not see as man does.
 - a. A small church may be alive before God. **(Rev 2:8-10)**
 - b. A “prosperous” church may be dead before God. **(Rev 3:15-17)**
 - 3. What essentials do we need to please the Lord and do His work?

I. We must believe and preach the gospel

- A. The gospel is the good news of Christ. **(Mt 28:18-20)**
 - 1. The gospel has a foundation that must be taught. **(1 Cor 15:3-6)**
 - 2. In essence we teach Jesus as Lord and are willing to teach anything He has instructed us.
 - 3. Yes I may include teaching on the local church as I teach the lost!
- B. Compromises in contending for the faith kills the fervent preaching of the gospel.
 - 1. What is “liberalism?” **(2 Jn 9; 1 Cor 4:6)**
 - 2. Some laugh at the thought of heresies. **(1 Cor 11:19)**
 - 3. Some current views on “fellowship” will kill the kind of faith needed to reach the lost. Some want fellowship without the struggle that must come.
 - 4. It is sad to see the “head games” and the intellectual banter that some are known for. There is no fervent need to teach a plain message about our Lord in this.
- C. False doctrine will always kill evangelism.
 - 1. We will soon be seeing heresies concerning the second coming of the Lord, the nature of the soul of man and the Bible doctrine of hell.
 - 2. Men are becoming bolder in these things because of those who no longer can identify false teachers. **(Mt 7:15)**
 - 3. What if hell is just “going out of existence? This will affect our evangelism. **(2 Cor 5:10-11)**

II. We must pray and plan for open doors

- A. The doors that God will open will almost always involve people. **(Col 4:3-4)**
 - 1. Often we try to make “doors” that will keep us away from people.
 - 2. Some are uncomfortable around people and then come up with a doctrinal system to justify their “lifestyle.”
 - 3. It is very frightening and humbling to teach unpredictable people.

- B. Open doors will involve planning and leadership.
 1. If you are not seeking and praying for open doors then will you find any?
 2. While evangelism is personal there are many things that require leadership at various levels.
 3. When we leave evangelism to free-lancing then it says much to our real priorities.
 4. If you are going to leave it to a preacher then at least leave it to two people so that there can be some companionship in the work. **(Acts 13:2-3)**
 5. Every Christian needs support in this work.
- C. We need to have the humility to learn that which we have yet to learn. **(Acts 1:6-8)**
 1. Some view themselves as knowledgeable about something they have never done.
 2. Often those with no experience in evangelism will ignore those with experience but will listen to those who they are socially comfortable
 3. We need to get to new Christians and lead them before the “leadership” does.
 4. This work should humble every one of us to turn to God for help to act and courage not to quit.

III. We need the strength to keep going

- A. There are many forces working to stop us – Satan is relentless. **(1 Cor 16:8-9)**
 1. Worldliness wears many down. If we do stop some brethren are relieved.
 2. We will lose social favor with some when we talk about the Lord. If we trust God He will give us new friends! **(Jn 12:42-43; Lk 21:16-19)**
- B. What is one of the greatest needs of an army? --- Supply and reinforcements!
 1. Paul needed companionship and assurance. **(Acts 18:8-11)**
 2. Discouragement and concern for other Christians did affect Paul at times. **(2 Cor 2:12-13)**
- C. When we become serious about this work we will seek out others to help us.
 1. There are many great resources we have in this area.
 2. We often will need help with various religious backgrounds.

IV. We need the love of God to receive and build new Christians

- A. Social structure to the Christian is far more important than many will admit
 1. In our associations we say much about our view of what is important. **(Jas 2:2-6)**
 2. What does a visitor see and hear when he comes to our assembly?
 3. Is this assembly the only place he can interact with us?
 4. Does someone coming here get left out? There is a reason for the current makeup of this church
- B. Remember it is the love of God that should move us in all things. **(Rom 5:6-8)**
 1. Some may teach others for a different reason. **(1 Cor 13:1-3)**
 2. Where do you fit in God’s work?

Conclusion: Go “ye” means go “me.” **(Mt 28:19-20)**

- A. Where should I start?
- B. The Lord will be with you.