

Equipping for Evangelism

Biblical Principles on Evangelism

1. Let your life shine the light of the gospel

- Matthew 5:13-16
- God wants people to be witnessed to whether they're going to listen or not, but the witness He wants isn't merely words. Don't think of explaining the theology of the gospel as the only thing that counts as witnessing.
- God want people to see a full witness (1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:5)
 - Changed hearts
 - Loving community
 - Miracles and healings
 - Clear message of the gospel
- Ways you can shine the light of the gospel
 - Loving others (Matthew 5:16)
 - Loving other Christians (John 13:35; Galatians 6:10)
 - Having hope (1 Peter 3:15)
 - Being genuine (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

2. Be gracious with your words

- Colossians 4:5-6
- What does Paul mean here?
 - "Let your speech be with grace"
- He could mean always be kind with your words or he could mean always seek to be edifying (Ephesians 4:29)
 - I think we should do both

3. Be on the lookout for opportunities

- Colossians 4:5-6 NASB
- Opportunity for what? To explain for gospel in full detail, or to shine the light of the gospel?
 - Opportunities to shine the light of Christ is a better way to think of it than "opportunities to share the gospel"
- Handling opportunities requires having wisdom
 - Notice he tells us to walk in wisdom before he talks about taking opportunities

4. Help people understand their sin

- Understanding our sin is one of the main reasons God gave us His law (Galatians 3:24; Romans 3:20, 7:7)
- We see this at the start of Jesus' ministry (Matthew 5:17-26)
- People need the bad news
 - Without it, they won't want the good news
 - You need to know what Jesus is saving you from

5. Point people towards trust in Jesus rather than themselves

- Any gospel where people trust in their own goodness is a false gospel (Galatians 1:6-9, 5:1-4)
- Help people to understand that we're justified by faith in Jesus' saving work

6. Don't sugar coat the gospel

- Luke 14:25-33

7. Rely on prayer

- God wants to work through prayer (2 Thessalonians 3:1)

8. Seek the voice of the Spirit

- God wants to give us wisdom about everything, and that includes what to say in conversation
 - But He wants us to be praying for it (Jeremiah 33:3)
 - And after we pray for it, we need to actually listen for it

My Tips on Evangelism

1. Have a recurring "evangelism thoughts" time

- Regular thinking sessions about how to improve is one of the best ways that a person can improve at just about anything

2. Aim to grow in your ability to defend the faith

- This is something you can do just by studying
- This isn't the main way we reach people, but it's not irrelevant either

3. Have a seed planting mentality

- Understand that people often come to Christ over time, and even if they don't come to Christ today, gospel witness that they see today might impact them later in life (John 4:37)
- Don't get discouraged if you don't see an immediate positive response. Instead have the attitude that you plant seeds, and God causes growth, and He might use that seed to cause growth later in this person's life.

4. Learn how to deal with fear

- Think through what you're really afraid of
- Work on growing in emotional security
 - Your worth is not based on how well you share the gospel
 - Your worth is not based on whether or not people approve of you
 - Learn these truths and build them into your head and heart through repetition

Conclusion

- Let your life shine the light of the gospel
- Look for opportunities to shine the light of Christ
- Don't be afraid