

Expectations about Evangelism

Expectations about Ourselves

How often should I be sharing the gospel?

- There are different roles in the church, and some people are called to share the gospel more than others
 - Ephesians 4:11-12
 - Some people are called to certain ministry roles where they have share the gospel more than others
 - All Christians are called to some form of ministry
- Lay people should be involved in sharing the gospel (Acts 8:1-4; Philippians 1:12-14; Mark 4:14-20)
- The normal expectation for lay people is just to take opportunities as they come up (1 Peter 3:15)
 - You should be looking for opportunities in your everyday life, but don't get the idea that all Christians are called to street preaching. Some people are, many aren't, that's fine. But all Christians are called to be ready for opportunities as they come up.

How much detail do I have to go into?

- Just making an offer
 - Just asking a friend or a family member, "would you be interested in learning about more about the Bible sometime, if so I'd love to meet with you and talk more about it"
- Why I say that's all that's required/reasonable
 - Matthew 10:11-14
 - Matthew 7:6
 - He who has an ear to hear, let him hear
 - It's an easy way to actually get to it
 - Generally speaking, if a person has zero interest in hearing the gospel, it's not going to be very effective to share with them
 - The spiritual power of agreement

How prepared do I have to be?

- You don't have to know everything
 - That doesn't mean don't study or learn, but you don't have to know everything.
- Some 80/20 stuff you can do
 - 1. Have thought through some basic things of what you would want to say
 - 2. Understand the basics of the gospel
 - Who God is
 - The problem of sin
 - Christ's death on the cross
 - Receiving salvation
 - 3. Pray
 - Pray that God would give you opportunities
 - Pray that God would give you wisdom and open eyes
 - Pray that God would use you
 - 4. Be willing to be used
 - Decide that you're willing to let God use you
 - Decide to look for opportunities and to try to be ready for them

Expect growth to take time

- Evangelism, like all other areas of the Christian life, is something we grow in over time, not something we instantly hit maturity or advanced levels in. Expect that. Be realistic and have patience and grace for yourself.
- You should want to grow in your ability to share the gospel with others, but expect growth to take time, and don't be upset about it.
 - God expects growth to take time, and He's not upset about it...

Expectations about Others

What response should I expect?

- Don't expect too high
 - The Scriptures warn us that many people won't listen, and many people will be offended
 - Don't assume something's wrong with you if people don't listen or aren't interested
- Don't expect too low
 - Things might look bad sometimes and it might look like culture's getting worse and worse and like people are becoming even less interested in the gospel, but God is at work and nothing is going to stop Him
 - Isaiah 55:10-11
 - Don't have the idea that no one's going to listen, or that everyone's going to hate you
- Don't be disappointed
 - You never know what God will do if the seed you've sown

Expectations about God

Expect God to move through prayer

- God wants to work through prayer
- God wants us to have generally high expectations about prayer (James 5:16-18)

Don't Expect God to be disappointed with you if you mess up

- God is not disappointed in you if you mess up
- God's got this
 - All who are His will come to Him
- God delights in our imperfect obedience
 - Colossians 1:9-10
 - 1 Kings 22:41-43
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:1

Conclusion

- The normal expectation for a Christian is just to share as opportunity comes up
- All you have to do is make an offer
- God will not be disappointed if you mess up
- (I hope that together these truths help you see that doing well in evangelism isn't some difficult or way out of reach thing. It's very attainable)