

Having a Biblically Complete Presentation of the Gospel

Having a Good Understanding of Biblical Conversion VS. False Conversion

We Need to Understand what Biblical Conversion Is

- Conversion Involves Repenting and Trusting Christ
 - Repenting (Acts 2:38; Mark 1:4; Luke 13:1-3)
 - Believing (Romans 10:9; Acts 16:25-34; Romans 4:1-3)
 - A person needs to believe and repent (James 2:14-17)
 - A person does not repent or believe in order to earn God's forgiveness, it's impossible to earn God's forgiveness. But repenting and believing is the means by which we receive the gift of God's forgiveness.
- No One Can Be Converted Apart from the Work the Holy Spirit
 - No one can come unless the Father draws him (John 6:44)
 - You must be born again (John 3:1-8)
 - We were dead and made us alive (Ephesians 2:4-5)
- True Converts Will Persist in the Faith
 - Truly born-again believers won't fall away (1 John 3:9, 5:18)
 - God is one who preserves Christians. It is not something we have to worry about doing. God will do it.
 - A true convert may fall into serious sin or unrepentance for a time, but they will not stay there
 - Peter denied Christ
 - David committing murder and adultery

We Need to Understand what False Conversion Is

- The Bible warns of it (Matthew 7:21-23)
- A person is a false Christian if they believe that they are a Christian, but they haven't truly repented or they haven't truly trusted in Christ

Why We Need to Understand This

- We need to understand biblical conversion if we are going to aim to see people having real conversions
- If we're not careful when presenting the gospel, we can lead someone to believing that they've become a Christian, when really, they haven't
- Not only that but, understanding how conversion happens biblically helps us to trust God to provide people with conversion

We Need to Trust God to Provide the Conversion

- It keeps us from watering down the gospel
- It helps us remember that we need to rely on God rather than human strength and wisdom
 - If we think that it is up to the person receiving the gospel whether or not they accept it, we might be more likely to rely entirely on human means of persuasion instead of relying on God in prayer and seeking wisdom from His Spirit
- It gives us reason to not give up

Aiming for Disciples, Not Decisions

- We need to understand that praying a sinner's prayer does not mean that you have received Christ
 - A lot of times people being rushed to pray a sinner's prayer either don't fully understand the gospel or they aren't committed to surrendering their entire life to Christ
 - If a person prays a prayer without those things, they have not been converted
- We need to make sure people actually understand the gospel (we need to avoid moving too quickly)

Stressing Lord and Savior

- The rich young ruler would have been willing to pray a sinner's prayer, but he was not willing to submit to Christ as Lord, so Jesus confronted him on it, and when he wasn't ready, Jesus let him walk away (Mark 10:17-22)
- If we don't stress this, we can easily be leading people to be false converts
- If we present a gospel where you can know God but not keep His commandments, we're liars (1 John 2:4)
- Throughout America there is a very common idea that you don't have to submit every area of your life to Christ in order to be saved. It's common inside the church and outside the church

Calling People to Count the Cost (Luke 14:25-33)

- Today we tell people that God has a wonderful plan for their life and all they have to do is ask Jesus into their heart and then they're a Christian.
- Jesus told people "make sure you really wanna be a Christian before you commit to this, cause you're gonna have to give up everything in submission to Me"

Including All Essential Aspects of the Gospel

- God
- Man
- Law/Sin/Judgement
- Christ
- Receiving Christ
- Growing as Christians
 - God's commands for Christian living
 - The means of grace
 - Baptism (water and Spirit)
 - Deliverance

Helping Converts Grow as Christians (Matthew 28:18-20)

- The Great Commission involves teaching and baptizing and helping people get established in Christ. Not just getting someone to accept the gospel and then leaving them on their own
- If we lead people to Christ, but don't help them to grow or lead them to a place where they can grow, then we are neglecting the great commission.
- This is how Paul shared the gospel (Colossians 1:28)
 - He didn't neglect to help people grow after they received the gospel

Conclusion

- The church needs to have a biblically complete presentation of the Gospel
 - We need to understand what biblical conversion is
 - We need to teach people that they need to receive Christ as Lord and Savior
 - We need to help people grow after they receive the gospel