

Spiritual Discipline of Evangelism

September 10, 2017

2 Corinthians 5:12-21

*For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you.¹⁴ **For the love of Christ compels us**, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.¹⁸ Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

2 Corinthians 5:12-21

Evangelism is the announcement, proclamation, and/or preaching of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4), the good news of and about Jesus Christ. Therefore, the gospel is a communicated message—communicated in verbal (Luke 7:22; Romans 10:14-17) and/or written (Luke 1:1-4) form. The English word “evangelism” comes from the Greek word *euaggelion*. Most literally translated in the noun form, *euaggelion* means: “gospel” or “good news.” In the verb form (*euaggelizesthai*), the meaning of the word changes slightly to “announce” or “bring good news.” The Greek word in its various forms appears fifty-five times in the New Testament. In addition to the before-mentioned translations, the Greek word is also translated as “preach.” Evangelism, the communication of the gospel message, includes a warning, an explanation, and a call. Evangelism includes warning people about sin and the consequences of sin (John 16:8; Acts 24:25; Revelation 20:11-15). It includes an explanation of God's remedy for sin—the gospel (Acts 8:29-35; Romans 3:21-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21). And it includes the clear call to repent (to turn from sin and to turn toward God) and believe the gospel, by faith (Mark 1:15; Luke 13:1-5; Acts 17:29-31; Romans 1:17; Romans 10:9-13).¹

So why DON'T we evangelize?

1) We would rather curse the darkness.

This requires all talk, no action, skill or thought involved.

For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?¹³ But those who are outside God judges. Therefore, “put away from yourselves the evil person.”

1 Corinthians 5:12-13

Often, this makes us feel better about ourselves and nothing else.

2) We are selfish.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:9

3) We don't know how or we are scared.

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It's either because we haven't tried, it didn't go well, or we just are not sure what to say. Remember, personal testimony is often the best.

4) We use the excuse that “our life is evangelism”.

We are to evangelize with our life, but also with our words as well. It is a both/and.

5) We just don't care.

Those close to me are good, so I'm good.

Why we should evangelize?

1) It is commanded by God.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. **Matthew 28:19-20**

2) How will they know unless someone tells them?

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, how bring glad tidings of good things!” **Romans 10:14-15**

3) God is not willing for any to perish and He uses us in His plans.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. **2 Peter 3:9**

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. **Acts 1:8**

4) It should be an overflow of who we are. Remember, we are Christ's Ambassadors.

How we evangelize:

1) Through our words.

2) Through our actions.

3) Through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Focus:

I would make sure I am right with the Lord.

I would pray for the lost.

I would evangelize the lost rather than look for excuses.