

EVANGELISM

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Evangelism comes from the ancient Greek word *euangelion*, which literally translates to "good news" or "good tidings". Evangelism, at its heart, is not about being loud, pushy or behaving strangely. It's about God's eternal purpose. Evangelism is simply sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and inviting people to know Him.

- It isn't winning an argument, forcing a response, or proving we are better than anyone else.
- It is not even trying to fill a church seat for the sake of numbers.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost. (Luke 19:10)"

1. Evangelism begins with God's heart

"And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14)

Evangelism comes from the heart of God because He wants His people:

- Saved (1 Timothy 2:4-6)
- Forgiven (Colossians 1:14)
- Restored Romans 5:10)
- Brought from darkness into light (1 Peter 2:9)
- To know Jesus (John 10:14-15)

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

So before we start evangelising, it's good to realise that it's something God desires. If we want to grow in evangelism, we first need to ask God to give us His heart for people.

2. Evangelism flows through the Church

The Church is both the body and the bride of Christ. Which shows relationship, but also purpose. The Church is loved by Christ, but also called to represent Christ in the world.

God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom (Ephesians 3:10a) in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. The Church is God's instrument of change in the earth today.

A church that forgets the lost eventually forgets why it exists.

3. Evangelism is part of our identity as ambassadors

2 Corinthians 5:20 says: So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. An ambassador represents someone else. They do not speak for themselves or carry their own message. They represent the one who sent them. That means as believers we represent Jesus in the world.

Believers are called to play their part in extending the Kingdom of God as ambassadors for Christ, reflecting His priorities rather than our own thoughts or feelings.

That's where evangelism gets practical:

- A clear conversation about Jesus
- Inviting someone to church
- Praying for someone
- Sharing what God has done in your life
- Answering a question honestly
- Living in such a way that people begin to ask why

The question is not just, "What do I say about Jesus?" but also, "What does my life say about Jesus?"

4. Evangelism requires the Holy Spirit

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

God does not call us to witness for Him and then leave us powerless:

- The Holy Spirit helps us (John 14:16-17)
- He gives courage (Acts 4:31)
- He gives wisdom (Luke 12:11-12)
- He gives compassion (Romans 5:5)
- He gives discernment (1 Corinthians 2:12)
- He gives the right words at the right time (Matt. 10:19)
- He opens doors we could never force open (Col. 4)

In Acts 8:29, Philip is directed by the Holy Spirit to go near the Ethiopian official's carriage. Evangelism isn't done independently of God; the Spirit leads people into divine

opportunities. Evangelism is not about being fearless; it is about being obedient even when we feel fear.

5. Evangelism begins beyond our comfort zone

Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come so that the house will be full. (Luke 14:23)

Go out. Urge people to come. So that the house will be full.

This shows our responsibility as harvest-minded ambassadors. We should be prepared to go out of our comfort zones, go into the community, and be visible representatives of Christ.

Because most evangelism does not happen inside comfort zones:

- Start a conversation
- Send someone a message
- Invite the person to a Sunday service or an event
- Offer to pray with them if they are sharing challenges they're facing
- Stop hiding the fact that you follow Jesus
- Care about someone's eternity more than our own awkwardness.

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. (Romans 1:16)

Opening questions:

- Have you ever been to Church before?
- What do you know about Church?
- What are you doing on Sunday for an hour or so?

Open up the chat:

- Have you ever sensed that God was real?
- Do you believe there's a Heaven?
If so, do you think you'd get in?
- Is there anything I can pray with you about?

Ask the question:

- Would you like to know Jesus for yourself?
- Would you like to pray the prayer of salvation with me?

People cannot respond to good news they've never heard.

6. Evangelism aims for disciples

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Jesus didn't say, "Go and get people to make a decision." He said, "Go and make disciples." That means evangelism has to be connected to the local church.

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

It's where they:

- Are added to the body
- Grow and mature
- Become disciples

Ask God for three things this week:

1. A heart for one person: Ask God to put someone on your heart who needs Jesus.
2. An open door: Ask God to create a natural opportunity for conversation.
3. The courage to respond. When the opportunity comes, do not overcomplicate it. Speak simply. Invite gently. Offer to pray. Share what Jesus has done.

Evangelism doesn't begin with a microphone but someone's name. A person. A prayer. An invitation. A conversation.

Conclusion

Evangelism is not a Church organised event. It's something the believer carries with them.

We carry good news, the message of Jesus, the hope of salvation. We carry with us the invitation to come home to God. Jesus is still seeking and saving the lost, and He's chosen to make His appeal to people through us. So let's not be ashamed of the gospel, because the good news is still good news today. And in the world we live today, good news is worth sharing.