

EVANGELISM OUTLINE

1. What is evangelism?
2. Why should we evangelize?
3. How should we engage in evangelism?
4. Why aren't we engaging in evangelism?
5. Tools to help with evangelism.

What is evangelism? (And what it's not)

Εὐαγγέλιον → Good News (Gospel); Εὐαγγελίζεσθαι → Preach/Announce the Good News

- Matthew 28:18-19 → “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 → “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures”
- Romans 1:16 → “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”
- Evangelism is not salesmanship (coercing/subduing/overwhelming/imposition)
 - Evangelism is telling people the truth: Evangelism is a believer sharing the person/claims of the gospel of Jesus Christ with a person who has yet to believe the claims of the gospel or trust the person at the center of the gospel – Jesus Christ. The gospel is "that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 10:9-13). The gospel is clearly stating what God has done in Christ for the sinner, calling for repentance and belief.
 - “When we tell the gospel to people, we need to do it with honesty. To hold back important and unpalatable parts of the truth is to begin to manipulate and to try to sell a false bill of goods to the person with whom we are sharing. So however we evangelize, we aren't to hide problems, to ignore our own shortcomings, or to deny difficulties. And we are not to put forward only positives that we imagine our non-Christian friends presently value and present God as simply the means by which they can meet or achieve their own ends. We must be honest.”¹

Why should we evangelize?

We love God. We love people.

- Crossfit/Aggie/Marriage Example → We passionately represent that which we love.
- John 13:35 → “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- Matthew 22:36-40 → “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”
 - Penn Jillette's YouTube Response to Receiving a Bible²
- 2 Peter 3:9 → “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.”
- Mark 16:16 → “Whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

¹ Mark Dever, *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism (9marks)* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2007), 57.

² Penn Jillette, “A Gift of a Bible,” YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6md638smQd8>, uploaded July 8, 2010, accessed November 16, 2017.

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How Should We Engage in Evangelism?

- Jesus Models the Way! (John 4:1-26)
 1. *Presence and Peace* (4:4)
 - 1 Cor. 9:19-23 → For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.
 2. *Probing Questions* (4:7)
 - 1 Cor. 2:14-16 → The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.
 3. *Practice Patience* (4:17)
 - Luke 23:34 → And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
 4. *Beware of Rabbit Trails* (4:20)
 - 2 Tim. 2:24-25 → And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,
 5. *Give Hope* (4:26)
 - Revelation 21:4; 22:12 → He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Obstacles to Evangelism

- “I don’t know what to say.”
 - Luke 12:11-12 → “And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”
- “They will say something I can’t refute.”
 - 1 Cor. 2:1-2 → “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”
- “I’ll be ashamed if they don’t accept the message”
 - 1 Cor. 3:6-9 → “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.”
- “I’m scared of the consequences long-term in our relationship.”
- “They’re already hostile to the Gospel.”
- “I don’t have time in my busy schedule.”
- “I don’t really have any opportunities... (Do not have any non-Christian friends?)
- Compartmentalizing Evangelism... (Sacred vs. Secular)
 - ““Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God,” Paul says (1 Cor. 10:31). The promise of Christianity is the joy and power of an integrated life, transformed on every level by the Holy Spirit, so that our whole being participates in the great drama of God's plan of redemption.”³

³ Nancy Pearcey, *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008), 95.

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Tools

1. Your Story!
 - a. Long-Windedness vs. Brevity
 - b. Fuzziness vs. Clarity
 - c. “Christianese” vs. Simplicity
 - d. Superiority vs. Humility
2. The Bridge Diagram
3. Do/Done
4. Morality Ladder