

Evangelism

March 16, 2025

2 Corinthians 5:20–21 (ESV)

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Oh, my brothers and sisters in Christ, if sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies; and if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay, and not madly to destroy themselves. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for. — C. H. Spurgeon

1. Define the Terms

Evangelism – *euaggelizo* – To announce good news, especially the gospel; declare, bring good tidings.

Witness – *martus* – A witness; by analogy, a martyr.

Reflection Questions:

- How do these definitions shape your understanding of evangelism?
 - What does it mean to be a faithful witness in your daily life?
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2. Getting Prepared

Grasp the Gospel

The gospel is simple but often misunderstood. Matt Chandler describes it as both “in the air” (big-picture theology) and “on the ground” (personal salvation).

Four Chapters of the Gospel Story:

1. **Ruler** – *Genesis 1:1*
2. **Revolt** – *Romans 5:12*
 - More relational than behavioral; vertical before horizontal (*Psalms 51:3-4*).
 - Sin is greater than just sinful acts (*Isaiah 59:2; Hebrews 9:27; Ephesians 2:1-3*).
3. **Rescue** – *Ephesians 2:4-5*

- We were incapable of reaching God; He came to us (*Hebrews 2:14-15; Philipians 2:8*).
- Jesus transferred His righteousness to us (*2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:23-25*).

4. **Response** – *John 1:12*

- Not just a transaction but a relationship (*John 14:6; John 17:3*).
- Salvation comes through trusting and treasuring Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

- How does understanding the full story of the gospel impact the way you share it?
- Are you relying on Jesus alone for your relationship with God?

Check Your Context

Know Your Audience

Do not dress up the gospel to make it “cool”; simplify it to make it clear (*Matt Smethurst*).

- Jesus adapted His approach:
 - Pharisees (*Mark 12:13-17*)
 - Sadducees (*Mark 12:18-27*)
 - Sinners (*Mark 2:13-17*)
- Paul used different approaches in Acts 17 (Thessalonica, Berea, and pagan Greeks in Athens).
- What does Paul mean in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23)? Do not fixate on “I became” but on “I Serve”
- C.S. Lewis – history is “the long, terrible story of man trying to find something other than God to make him happy.”

Reflection Questions:

- How can you better understand the people you are witnessing to?
- What are some ways to present the gospel clearly without compromising its truth?
- What steps must you take to intentionally spend time with non-believers?

Love the Lost

- We do not hesitate to witness because we are afraid, but because we do not love. (1 John 4:18)
- We love because God loved us (1 John 4:19)
- Balance “friendship evangelism” – be a friend but don’t delay sharing truth.

Face Your Fears

- Do not wait for the perfect opportunity
- If an opportunity arises, fear will rise with it. This is the time to face fear, put it in its place, and move forward. Fear is not King, and you do not serve it, Jesus is King and you must serve Him.
- Is there someone else present that wants me to be afraid and not speak up? (2 Corinthians 4:3-6)
- Believe in a Sovereign God.
 - Ephesians 2:1 - Sinners are dead in trespasses and sins.
 - Matthew 4:19 - Jesus calls us to be fishers of men
 - We are not called to raise the dead, that is God’s job.
 - We are called to communicate the Gospel. God must remove the blinders and raise the dead (Lazarus)
- God can, and God cares
 - If God only cares, that is the liberal view. He is powerless to do anything. God is good but He is not great.
 - If God only can, that is like Islam, God does not care.
 - Luke 12:32 - Shepherd, Father, King

Reflection Questions:

- What fears hold you back from evangelizing?
- How does God’s sovereignty encourage you to share the gospel?

3. Start to Speak

Prayer is Essential

- Paul requested prayer for boldness (*Ephesians 6:19-20*).

- The early church prayed together before evangelizing (*Acts 4:17,29; Acts 5:24*).
- Prayerlessness is pride (*Matt Smethurst*).

Practical Steps:

- Notice people, start a conversation, turn it toward Christ.
- Answer their questions, question their answers (*Andrew Wilson*).
 - Answer peoples' questions from scripture or promise to find out and get back to them.
 - Question their "answers" because their mind is not blank, it has a lot of stuff in there clogging it up.
 - Every person you meet is looking for some kind of happiness. They, without God, are looking for it in a trash heap. (*Isaiah 55:1-2; Jeremiah 2:12-13; Jonah 2:8; Mark 5:26*)
 - Recognize where the idols lurk in your own life. You think you can handle time, and money, and the promise of anyone or anything that is not God? Approach the sinner trapped with humility, not superiority. We are beggars telling other beggars where to find bread.
 - Ephesians 3:20 - God is able to do more than we can ask Him or the outer limits of our imagination.
 - Watch your focus - Do not lose sight of Christ
 - God loves all people. So should we.

Reflection Questions:

- How can you intentionally incorporate prayer into your evangelism?
- What are some practical ways you can start conversations about Christ?
- What is the highest motivation for evangelism?

"Evangelism is not converting people. It is simply taking the initiative to share Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and then leaving the results to God."

– Matt Smethurst