

EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM

A NEW WORLD - A NEW APPROACH

Mark 16:15 (NLT) - And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

INITIAL DISCUSSION POINTS

- Hopefully we can all agree that the approach to evangelism utilized in generations past have proven ineffective in today’s world.

- 1) What are some of those “old ways” to evangelize?
- 2) Why have they become ineffective?

- The pandemic of 2020

Matthew 9:35-37 (NLT) - Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few.

- 1) What changes did the pandemic force all houses of worship to make?
- 2) Has “the harvest” moved? Is “the harvest” not where it used to be?

- We must change our approach. If we do not, the church as a whole and SHCC, will become like Montgomery Wards, Sears, and Kmart. They did not visualize and embrace the changing consumer landscape. Consumer

behavior changed and they were slow to adjust leading to their extinction. Can this happen to the Church?

1) Although our overall approach needs to be adjusted, what are some things that will always be effective in evangelism?

- ✓ Personal relationships
 - a) Does God need us to each to go into the whole world, or each of us to go into our own little worlds?
 - b) Is the “Great Commission” to each individual member, or to the church as a whole?

- ✓ Authenticity – Christ-like living in action
 - a) Step one; if we are living sinfully, we simply cannot evangelize.
 - b) We will find ourselves leading people astray.
 - c) I know we don’t like to think of it this way, but when we are living sinfully, we are promoting Satan’s kingdom, not God’s.

John 8:44 (NLT) - For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- d) Let us be mindful, when under fire, our true character will show. That is when others will watch us closest to determine if our Christian walk is authentic, or a bunch of words.
- e) We must understand that every trial we face may not be about us. It could be God showing our authenticity to someone who’s heart is ready to receive the Good News.

- ✓ Transparency – Being willing to share our own failings

Acts 5:40-41 (NLT) - The others accepted his advice. They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go.⁴¹ The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy **to suffer disgrace** for the name of Jesus.^[d]

- a) Are we unwilling to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus by being transparent?
- b) Is our reputation and how others see us more important to us than connecting with and having impact on a lost soul?

- ✓ The Word of God

- a) The Word of God itself is the transforming power.
- b) If the Word of God doesn't penetrate the heart to bring about change, then we are powerless to convert the individual. This is true for the unbeliever as well as the believer.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT) - For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

I. Do We Have the Right Message? Or the Right Approach?

John 3:16-17 (NLT) - "For this is how God **loved the world**: He gave^[g] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world **not to judge the world**, but to save the world through him.

Mark 1:1 (NLT) - This is the **Good News** about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

Romans 8:39 (NLT) - No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from **the love of God** that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- 1) As we evangelize to a sin sick world, what should our message be?
- 2) As the Body of Christ as a whole, what has been our message? Has it only been a sign stating, “Salvation Can Be Found Here?”
- 3) Has “God Loves You” been our first message? Or have we been leading with another message?
- 4) Can the people in our inner circles see God’s love in us? Are we speaking one message, but showing another?
- 5) No one wants to hear how wrong they are, but when we are convinced someone has love for us, can we hear it better?
- 6) As the foundational text in Mark 16 states, we are to preach **The Good News!** Have we been preaching Good News or bad news?
- 7) Why are we so quick to show people, or prove to them from scripture, how wrong they are?
- 8) How did Jesus deal with regular people? How did he deal with the religious leaders? To whom did he show grace, and to whom did he give truth??

II. Heaven Without Evangelizing

- Must a Christian evangelize to be with Jesus in Heaven?
 - Where in scripture is there a direct connection between evangelism and securing our heavenly homes?
- 1) Is it possible that some Christians do not see evangelism as essential, but only as something we ought to do?
 - 2) What are the essentials to get to heaven? (Relationship with God; prayer, bible study, good works) Is evangelism on the list?

- 3) This can be the problem with a sole focus on getting to heaven.
- 4) A better goal for the Christian is to be like Christ and fulfill the purpose for which man was created.

Genesis 1:26 (NLT) - Then God said, "Let us make human beings^[b] in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth,^[c] and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

- 5) When we are striving to be like Christ, evangelism becomes essential.

III. Evangelism Going Forward

A. Evangelizing the Masses

- 1) How do we reach the masses in 2022 and beyond?
- 2) We should all become **Cyber Missionaries**. We should be using social media platforms to evangelize. Are we using it to spread the Good News??
- 3) Studies have shown that the Church is losing its relevance. Why? How do we reverse that trend?
- 4) Our culture and society have minimalized the seriousness of sin, therefore minimalizing the need for the cure, which is the blood of Jesus.

IV. Correcting Error – Combating False Doctrine

Acts 18:24-26 (NLT) - Meanwhile, a Jew named Apollos, an eloquent speaker who knew the Scriptures well, had arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt. ²⁵ He had been taught the way of the Lord, and he taught others about Jesus with an enthusiastic spirit^[h] and with accuracy. However, he knew only about John's baptism. ²⁶ When Priscilla and Aquila heard him preaching boldly in the synagogue, **they took him aside** and explained the way of God even more accurately.

- 1) Before engaging in a discussion/debate with someone of a denomination, make sure the conversation will be fruitful. It's not about being right. It's about gently attempting to correct doctrinal error like Priscilla and Aquila above.
- 2) The first thing we must understand is those in the denominational world have a love for God. They are living for God and trying to serve Him just like we are.

Romans 10:1-2 (NASB) - Brothers *and sisters*, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation. ²For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

- 3) Our issue with the denominational world isn't peripheral things like musical instruments in the worship service. Discuss the more relevant differences like the following. I suggest we learn the basic doctrines of the various Christian denominations.
 - ✓ How to get into a right relationship with God.
 - ✓ Once saved always saved.
 - ✓ Predestination, meaning God has already determined who is heaven bound and who isn't.