

GATHER TO SCATTER

EVANGELISM TRAINING

WEEK 2: THE MOTIVATION OF EVANGELISM AND VARIOUS METHODS

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Matthew 4:19 ~ And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

- Christians have a zeal for the lost and a desire that all would come to salvation (Psalm 40:3).
 - Yet many people find it difficult to start talking about the gospel (Acts 4:20).
 - Others don’t know how they will respond to objections or hard questions (Luke 6:3; 1 Pet 3:15).
 - Others just lack confidence (Acts 4:29).
- This monthly mini class will teach the foundation for evangelism and give you greater confidence to put it into practice (Philippians 4:9).
- The nature of the class will provide a Biblical foundation that shapes how and why we evangelize, provide opportunities to discuss real situations, and encourage us to share our faith with others.
- Fall Schedule:
 - September 8: The message of Evangelism and the reasons we don’t share our faith
 - October 6: The motivation of evangelism and various methods
 - November 3: The nuts and bolts of actually sharing our faith with others
 - December 1: The aim of our evangelism and our dependent prayer
 - January-May: Other themes related to evangelism coming out of our discussions

EVANGELISM ESSENTIALS

Definition: Essentially evangelism is explaining the gospel so that God would save sinners.

- God the Father has chosen the means: believers communicate His Word so that God the Spirit would convict the hearts of sinners to find their salvation in God the Son.
 - “Evangelism is **teaching** the **gospel** with the **aim** to **persuade**.”¹
 - Evangelism includes the biblical explanation of God, sin, Jesus, salvation, and faith and repentance. God’s salvation comes through God’s Spirit when God’s people preach God’s Word.
 - “The work of the Christian... is to confront every part of the thinking of the natural man with *biblical* authority, allowing the Holy Spirit to accomplish His results in the heart and mind.”²

¹ J. Mack Stiles, *Evangelism, 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), 26.

² Rolland McCune, *Promise Unfulfilled: The Failed Strategy of Modern Evangelicalism* (Greenville, SC: Ambassador, 2004), 228.

EVANGELISM MOTIVATIONS

Why do we evangelize? What is the ultimate goal in sharing the gospel with others?

Bad Motivations:

1. Out of selfish recognition or vain conceit (Philippians 2:3)
2. A desire to win an argument or prove your ability (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)
3. A desire to tell someone you evangelized.
4. To earn favor with God through your good works.

Philippians 1:15-18a ~ “Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from goodwill; ¹⁶ the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷ the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking that they are causing me distress in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice.”

- These detractors really were preaching the gospel but were trying to make a name for themselves out of jealousy and contention with Paul.
- Clearly their motives were impure ~ capitalizing on Paul’s imprisonment to shine as preachers.

Right Motivations:

1. **Goodwill:** love (from a pure heart, in the truth) for lost people. (Mt 9:36; Phil 1:15-18)
2. **Obedience** to Christ (1 Peter 3:15; Acts 8:4)
3. **Love for God** (2 Cor 4:3-4; 1 Peter 2:12)
4. **God’s right judgment** of sinners which sobers us (Habakuk 1:13; Jude 3, 23)
5. **Trust in God’s sovereignty:** His perfect plan to save sinners through even us. His gospel is the power of salvation (Acts 18:9-11; Romans 1:16; 2 Tim 2:10).
6. **Providence:** God has placed people in your context that need to hear the Gospel (Acts 8:1-4)
7. **Joy of salvation;** seeing the Lord change hearts (1 Corinthians 9:23; Philippians 1:25)

2 Corinthians 5:20 ~ “Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

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.

Matthew 9:36 ~ “Seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd.”

EVANGELISM METHODS

- There are really two ways to think about methodology: The *what* in how we do it and the *how* in what we do! In other words: apologetic methodology and evangelistic means.
 - By WHAT AUTHORITY do we proclaim our message?: What saves? Reasoning, Logic, Evidence and Science, Experience, Miracles, decrees of the church, the Bible...?
 - HOW do we communicate the message?: through tracts, door-to-door, events, open-air, testimony, friends/family, specific training programs (Way of the Master, EE, etc.)
- The first way we think about methods is really our *mindset* as we communicate. Where we determine authority lies, this determines what we will say and why we say it. We want them to know the gospel, because the Bible declares the counsel of God. Think: **AUTHORITY**.
- The second category is really just the different tools and means by which we start conversations and the ways we structure how we might communicate the gospel. Think: **STYLE** and **MEANS**.

Two Apologetic Methods: How Will we Defend our Faith?

- "Methodology and authority are closely intertwined; the ultimate authority determines and controls an apologetic methodology. It is not an oversimplification of things to say that *all* methodologies can be classified in one of two groups, depending on the ultimate or most primitive starting authority... those who accept the Scriptures as the constant sole authority; the other includes all those who substitute something other than the Bible as ultimate authority. The latter may appeal logic, philosophy, science, or the decrees of the church, each a form of *human reasoning*. In simplest language, ultimate authority... is either God or man; either the self-contained triune God and His self-attesting witness to a self-identifying Christ in the Scriptures is the final court of appeal, or else man pronounces the final verdict, if only to verify the truth-claims of Christianity."³
- **1a. Classical Apologetics:** Emphasizes Rationalistic arguments toward God's existence. The conversation starts on a "neutral ground" from "no knowledge of God" and moves toward a rational understanding of God. (Sproul, Geisler)
- **1b. Evidential Apologetics:** Emphasizes history, fulfilled prophecy, miracles, resurrection, archaeology to show that the Bible or certain claims are legitimate. The Bible is valid because other sources prove its worth. The conversation starts with analytical testing and verification of the Bible and miracles by one means or another to determine its legitimacy. (
- **2. Presuppositional Apologetics:** "pre-"= *ultimate understanding /commitment to something (God)*, "supposition"= *belief/conviction/understanding of all things*. Accepts unconditionally and wholeheartedly the divine authority of God's Word over all things!

³ Rolland McCune, *Promise Unfulfilled*, 200.

- “This system rejects all attempts to verify the Christian truth-claims *independently of scripture* because sinful, rational man has no legitimate canons by which to test God and His revelation.”⁴ Essentially, the Bible stands on its own and borrows from no one and needs nothing to prove its reliability because God needs nothing or no one.
- **Conclusion:** The unbeliever may have questions, counterarguments, complaints, rebuttals, and rejections. The believer needs to be able to engage those misunderstandings about who God is, the depraved nature of man, what is authoritative, or what decides right and wrong.
- See “**How to do Presuppositional Apologetics**” class notes from website. SCAN →



Three Ways to Begin Evangelism: How Will We Share our Faith??

- **Direct:** Directly communicate the gospel message. At an event, open-air evangelism, with a friend; also by using various other tools, the believer boldly preaches the message of the gospel.

Matthew 3:2 ~ “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (John the Baptist)

Acts 17:2-3 ~ “And according to Paul’s custom, he visited them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead, and *saying*, ‘This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.’”

- **Gradual/Indirect/ Creatively:** This *moves* the conversation from everyday life toward spiritual realities (Natural to the Supernatural). Areas to consider: creation, current events, intrigue, disappointments, grief, order/disorder, personal testimony, disease and evils in the world, tracts.

John 4:10 “Jesus replied to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, ‘Give Me a **drink**,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have **given you living water**.’”

Acts 17:22ff ~ “So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, **I see that you are very religious** in all respects.’”

John 4:29-30 ~ “‘**Come, see a man** who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is He?’ They left the city and were coming to Him.”

Luke 13:1-2 ~ “Now on that very occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus responded and said to them, ‘**Do you think** that these Galileans were *worse sinners than all the other Galileans just because they have suffered this fate?*’”

- **Passive:** They come to you because they know you are a Christian and ask you more about what you believe about truth, morality, destiny. Examples: “You claim to be a Christian... tell me...”, “I’ve always been curious about...”, or “Why do you believe...?” or “What’s the difference between ‘Christians’ and Catholics?” or “What do you think the Bible says about ____?”

⁴ McCune, 199.

Matthew 19:16 ~ “And someone came to Him and said, “Teacher, **what good thing shall I do so that I may obtain eternal life?**”

Acts 8:31 ~ “And he said, ‘Well, **how could I, unless someone guides me?**’ And **he invited Philip** to come up and sit with him.”

Acts 16:29-30 “And *the jailer* asked for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas; and after he brought them out, he said, ‘Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**’”

- **Various Levels of Relationship when evangelizing:**

- **Close relationship** with friends, family, coworkers.
- **No relationship** with people you have never met.
- **New relationships** intentionally formed with people you want to evangelize: gas station attendants, cashiers, waitresses, barbers, mechanics, co-workers, .

Various Methods of Evangelism:

- **Tracts:** Great tools because they lead to explaining the gospel. Rarely is anyone saved because the verses on the paper were so clear to them. They are a conduit.
- **Way of The Master:** This program provides great training. It gets the unbeliever into the word so they can clearly see their sinful state and standing before God. It can be a bit over-scripted at times. Rabbit trials can divert the message, but listen and care for the person.
- **E3/ 3 circles:** Use caution with over-simplifying biblical terms (heal the broken places in our lives), super brief presentation with mostly summations of the Bible, and ignores the cost.
- **Friendship or Lifestyle Evangelism:** Just live well and people will want what you have. Critique. They need to hear the message. Faith is only going to come through the Word.
- **Servant Evangelism:** Love and service to open doors for evangelism. This still needs a clear message, and requires a lot of “practical” effort beyond the actual evangelism.
- **Events:** This is a “come and see Jesus” opportunity to hear a clear presentation. There may be a compelling topic that draws people to consider the truth of God’s Word in that area of interest. The event is an opportunity but cannot be the only opportunity.
- **Neighborhood Outreach:** Block parties, evangelistic bible studies, door-to-door. Less of an welcomed practice today, yet effective to make new contacts, testify, and open the Word.
- **Open Air Preaching:** Effective in cities to get attention, clearly articulate the gospel, engage with people where they have doubts and rejection. This requires some skill and preparation, as well as thick skin. This *method* can quickly turn people off to even listen.