

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - January 20, 2022

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Title: "Relationship Evangelism"

Scripture Reference: Romans 1:16

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

I. Introduction

A. Would you agree that most Christians are apprehensive about sharing their faith with others? While most Christians feel a responsibility to share Christ with the lost, many just do not because of fear, or a lack of know-how, or uneasiness in using unnatural approaches to sharing.

B. Are you able to identify with any of the following excuses?

- **It's not my gift.** "I really don't have the gift for evangelism. I believe it's best to leave that to people who are gifted to do it."
- **I'm too nervous.** "I'm basically a very shy person. I get chocked up and my hands get sweaty when I have to talk to people about ... you know, God. I'm sure God isn't calling me to share my faith."
- **I just don't know enough.** "I'm not a good Bible student. I just can't quote all those verses to convince people about God. Plus, I couldn't possibly answer all of the questions they might have."
- **It's not my personality.** "I think you have to be the type of person who really loves people and be very outgoing. That's just not me."

C. Not very many Christians will volunteer for door-to-door approaches to evangelism, but relationship evangelism is an approach in which everyone can be involved.

II. The Unreached World

A. A large segment of the world's population is made up of people who are not operating within a religious framework. Religion is not a vital part of their existence. Their personal philosophy of life is not based on religious concepts.

B. Many others are uninformed about religious matters and the truth about who the God of Heaven really is.

C. A Gallup's poll of several years ago concluded that perhaps half of the American population is secularized. So, the question is posed - Have we as Christians limited our understanding of evangelism so that we are not really communicating to the secularized world?

III. Proclaiming and Affirming The Gospel

A. In order to effectively communicate the gospel, we must first understand what the Scriptures teach about evangelism. The Scriptures speak of two primary means of evangelism.

1. The proclamation of the gospel. An action through which the Non-Christian receives a clear statement of the essential message.

2. The affirmation of the gospel. A process of modeling and explaining the Christian message.

B. Both proclamation and affirmation are essential if we are to evangelize those from secular backgrounds as well as those who have a religious background. One cannot be judged better or more effective than the other.

C. Both are essential, and both are limited. The New Testament pattern seems to be that they should work together.

IV. Proclaiming The Gospel

A. As stated earlier, proclamation is an action through which the Non-Christian receives a clear statement of the gospel message.

B. It is something that happens at a certain point in time - for example, during an evangelistic crusade, a radio or television broadcast, or a personal presentation of the gospel message to an individual or to a group of people.

Comment: When someone declares the terms of man's reconciliation to God, by sharing the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Gospel has been presented.

C. The Bible commands us to proclaim the gospel to the entire world. Therefore, whether we should engage in this is really beyond discussion. The admonition is - Let's just do it!

D. Proclamation must be used wisely if we expect to communicate the message to all kinds of people. It is effective mainly among prepared people - that is, those who have a religious heritage.

E. Proclamation, which focuses on reaping, is most effective when sowing and watering have taken place beforehand (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:6,7).

F. Proclaiming the gospel worked well for the first missionaries in the book of Acts. They followed a certain pattern everywhere they went.

1. First, they visited the synagogue. Obviously, almost everyone found in a synagogue would have some spiritual interest.
2. Although these people had not heard about Christ, they were seeking after God according to their traditional patterns.
3. They had the benefit of a religious heritage. The result

was that many of them believed when Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the gospel. (cf. Acts 13:44-48)

V. Affirming The Gospel

A. The affirmation of the gospel is a process of demonstrating the Christian message. Affirmation is carried on by modeling a Christian lifestyle.

B. This Christian lifestyle represents new values and attitudes to the Non-Christian in the context of relationships.

1. An example of a person affirming the gospel is the hard-working Christian who is unfairly passed over for a promotion and is able to graciously accept their circumstances.

C. Affirmation is particularly effective among the secularized - that is, people without a Christian heritage and who do not believe that Christianity is a credible basis for their lives.

VI. Evangelism as a Process

A. When we are blessed to witness someone reach a decision to put their trust in Christ, after one or two or even several conversations with that person, we can be sure of at least one thing; considerable preparation and laboring have already occurred in the person's life.

B. This is what Jesus was saying to the Twelve in John 4:36-38 - "And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth rejoice together." (v 36).

C. God uses many ways to prepare a person's heart for the gospel message: people, circumstances, and events. Sometimes God uses problems on the job, broken relationships, uprooted homes, or personal tragedies that disrupt the routines and values of normal life.

D. All of these events can serve to draw people away from the dominion of darkness and toward the Kingdom of Light.

E. God uses an endless variety of ways and means to sow the seed of the Gospel message and move us along from ignorance and rebellion to faith.

F. We must remember that as we witness to those without a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, we must not be too anxious for the harvest, but keep in mind that before reaping, there must be sowing, watering, and cultivating.

Comment: Evangelism is not an event but a process. This process may take months, and even years.

VII. Attitudes For Success

A. What attitudes are necessary to effectively affirm the gospel to Non-Christians?

1. We must be willing to initiate relationships.
2. We must show the same kind of love and acceptance toward sinners that Jesus displayed.
3. We must be willing to boldly identify with Christ early in a relationship. (Remember Romans 1:16 and **Do Not** compromise your Christian witness!!)
4. We must demonstrate dependence on God through persevering prayer.

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages that follow by filling in the blank spaces. As always, each passage has been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"Go ye therefore, and _____ all _____, _____ them in the name of the _____, and of the _____, and of the _____ . _____ them to _____ all things whatsoever I have _____ you: and, lo, I am _____ you _____, even unto the end of the _____ . Amen."

[Matthew 28:19-20]

"Neither is there _____ in any _____: for there is none other _____ under _____ given _____ men, whereby we must be _____."

[Acts 4:12]

"King Agrippa, _____ thou the _____? I know that thou _____: Then Agrippa said unto Paul, _____ thou _____ me to be a _____."

[Acts 26:27-28]

"There is therefore _____ no _____ to them which are _____ Jesus, who walk _____ after the _____, but _____ the _____."

[Romans 8:1]

"For _____ shall _____ upon the name of the _____ be _____."

[Romans 10:13]

"For I _____ unto you first of all that which I also
_____, how that _____ died for our _____ according to
the _____; and that he was _____, and that he _____
again the _____ day _____ to the _____:

[1 Corinthians 15:3-4]

Thank you for taking part in the Bible Study session and my prayer is that you have been blessed. Please share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin