

THE LIFESTYLE OF EVANGELISM

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What is evangelism?

Evangelism comes from the Greek word “*euaggelion*”. Most literally translated in the noun form, which means: “*gospel*” or “*good news*”.

Evangelism is the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness. In other words, evangelism can also be defined as the preaching of the gospel to the people who don't believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and saviour

Some examples of the different types of evangelism:

- Open air evangelism (also known as “street preaching”)
- Door to door evangelism
- Creative evangelism
- Booklet /leaflet evangelism
- Personal evangelism
- Lifestyle evangelism

Lifestyle evangelism is an evangelism strategy that focuses on living a holy life among nonbelievers with the goal of attracting people to Christ through their lifestyle in addition to their verbal testimony.

Lifestyle evangelism combines proclaiming with living a _____ that shows others the difference Jesus makes in us. God is concerned about our conduct as much as our talk. (1 Peter 2:12)

“I'd rather see a sermon any day than hear one” - This truth is important especially in our homes if we live with non-Christians, it is not wise to preach to them day in and day out. We must preach to them with our life not our mouth.

We may not have to say much about the gospel in the family until the time comes when they are open to it. However long it takes, we as Christians, must watch our conduct. (1 Peter 3:1)

There is no better way to introduce Christ to others than to model His character. When we live a life above reproach with love and care to others, we are beacons of hope to the lost. (Mathew 5:14-16)

Why Prayer is Essential in Lifestyle Evangelism?

Prayer is essential in the Christian's life, without it, your witnessing will be less effective (James 5:16). The Prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Praying for the unsaved is the best way to begin reaching them for Christ. (Ezekiel 22:30)

Are we ready to stand in the Gap and pray?

- For God to draw them to Himself (John 6:44)
- That God would open their heart to receive the truth (Acts 16:14)
- For them to believe the Scriptures (Romans 10:17)
- That God would deliver them from darkness, into His Kingdom (Colossians 1:13)
- That they would receive God's free gift (Ephesians 2:8)
- That Satan would be prevented from blinding them to the truth (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- They would not wait for a more “convenient” time to consider Christ (2 Corinthians 6:2)
- For the Holy Spirit to work in them (John 16:8,13)
- That they would confess Christ as Lord (Romans 10:9-10)
- That the Holy Spirit would give us the right words to say when sharing Christ (Ephesians 6:19)

Evangelising the Unsaved as a Way of Life:

- The ultimate primary earthly mission of Jesus himself was to reach and save the lost (Luke 5:32) (Luke 19:10) (John 10:16) (Mark 10:45)
- The greatest commandment from Jesus to His disciples was to evangelise the lost: (Matthew 28:19-20) (Luke 14:23) (Mark 16:15) (Matthew 9:37)
- Winning souls brings alignment to God's desired will (2 Peter 3:9) (Luke 15:10)
- Soul-winning is a primary purpose for us to accomplish in the time that we have left to live upon the earth. (2 Corinthians 5:18) (2 Timothy 4:4)
- To be unmoved in reaching the unsaved is a sign of spiritual apathy: (2 Corinthians 5:11)
- Evangelism is not just for a selected few in church to do, but rather it is for everyone to play their part: (Mark 16:19)
- We must recognise and anticipate the harvest field God has set before us: (John 4:35) (Psalm 2:8): (We all individually know at least a few unsaved people who are without Christ)
- We must avoid prostration as an excuse not to witness to the lost. (2 Corinthians 6:2) (John 4:35)
- We need to be unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ in which we stand: (Romans 1:16)
- Everyone needs to at least have the opportunity to hear the gospel. (Mark 16:15) (Matthew 11:15) (Acts 20:26)
- Everyone has at the very least what it takes to invite people to the house of God. (Luke 14:23)
- Don't underestimate the power of sharing your own personal testimony (John 9:25) (Acts 26)
- We can make a difference to people's lives through sharing the gospel with them (1 Corinthians 15:19)
- We will inevitably face rejection, and even ridicule in sharing our faith to the unconverted: (Luke 10:16) (Matthew 10:14) (Acts 28:24) (You will be rejected far more than you are accepted)
- Sometimes others will reap where we have laboured and sown- and vice versa (John 4:36-38)
- We must be ready at all times to do the following: (2 Timothy 4:1)
- To personally lead people to Christ, at any given time. (Acts 16:30-31)
- Make the most of _____ in making Christ known (Ephesians 5:15-17) (Church services, Church groups, special events and occasions.)
- To share the hope that we have as followers of Christ during hard times (1 Peter 3:15)
- To respond when needs/crises arise through our actions of love and charity, which can itself be a powerful witness as it displays the compassion, care, and love of Christ.

What we need to be effective in sharing the gospel to the unsaved:

- A love and compassion for the people. (2 Corinthians 5:14)
 - Having an eternal perspective: (Matthew 25:46) *'If our hearts and minds are fixed on eternity then taking souls with us into Heaven will be the most important things in our lives.'* Colin Cooper
 - Prayer (2 Thessalonians 3:1) (Matthew 9:38)
 - The empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) (1 Corinthians 2:4)
 - Holy Boldness (Ephesians 6:19) (Acts 4:21) (Acts 28:31)
 - To tell the people the whole gospel (Acts 5:20) (Repentance, what they are saved from)
 - To prepare ourselves with general gospel apologetics: (Proverbs 15:28)
 - The wisdom of God (Proverbs 11:30)
- Practical steps to apply the wisdom of God in the pursuit of soul-winning:**
- We must be tactical in our speech, timing, and style in the way we connect with people. (Acts 13:16-41) (Acts 14:15)
 - It is important to keep the good news of Jesus the main thing, and not get into demeaning other people's standpoints or side-tracked into meaningless debates (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)
 - Relating to people first helps us to create openings for us to share about Jesus (1 Corinthians 9:22)
 - Work on your testimony adjust it accordingly and avoid using jargon so that it connects with a wide range of people. (Acts 22:2)

The Follow Up

- When people believe they must then disciple them to belong and behave. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- We must be patient, encouraging and have realistic expectations with new converts
- When you pray for rain, and it arrives, then don't complain when the mud comes: (Proverbs 14:4)
- A sign of a very healthy and vibrant local church is one where new souls are continually added unto it through personal and corporate evangelism. (Acts 2:47) (Acts 9:31)

JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES

Bibliography: 'Building church with Evangelism', Colin J Cooper