

Evangelism

Introduction

- Discipline faith is a faith that is likely to survive and lead to faith in others.
- As Baptists, we call ourselves evangelicals and say that we are committed to the great commission. But in reality many Baptists and other evangelicals do not share their faith on a regular basis.
- Many would say that on a regular basis they pray, read their Bible, serve, and attend worship, but do not witness regularly.
- Don Whitney comments that the reason many of us don't witness for Christ in ways that would be effective and relatively fear free is simply because we don't discipline ourselves to do it.
- Video of the George Street evangelist. He was so grateful at being saved that he committed to sharing his faith with ten people every day. He did this for years, handing out tracts and sharing Jesus. He never knew the results until near the end of his life, when he found out that hundreds were saved due to his ministry. He was not a minister and had no special training but he did have a heart for God.

Evangelism is expected

- We need to remember that just sharing the gospel is successful evangelism. Remember that not everyone responded positively to Jesus. In fact, many responded negatively and with hostility. We need to leave the results and response up to God.
- I was very fortunate that after I was saved my Pastor disciplined me and taught me how to witness and share my faith. It is important that we commit to discipleship and teaching church members how to share their faith.
- Evangelism is presenting Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to sinful people, in order that they may come to put their trust in God through him, to receive him as their Savior, and serve him as their king in the fellowship of his church. A shorter definition would be simply communicating the gospel to others.
- Jesus commanded us to witness
 - Matt 28:19-20
 - Mark 16:15
 - Luke 24:46-47
 - John 20:21
 - 1 Peter 2:9

Evangelism is Empowered

- The Holy Spirit empowers evangelism. Acts 1:8
- Romans 1:16. The gospel is the power of God.
- 2 Cor 2:14-17. The gospel is like a fragrant aroma attracting people

Evangelism is a Discipline

- We must discipline ourselves to get into situations where evangelism can occur, that is, we must not just wait for witnessing opportunities to happen.
- Opportunities: room at the inn, RIFA serving meals, jail ministry, Hartland, mission trips, teaching a BFT, and many more.
- No special training required. John 9:25. Jesus healed a blind man and the blind man immediately began to tell what Jesus had done for him.
- Though not required, some training can be helpful and bolster our confidence
 - Share Jesus Without Fear
 - Way of the Master
 - Evangecube, the gospel in pictures
 - The 4 Spiritual Laws, from campus crusade
 - The Roman Road
 - The 3 Circle tract or app
- There are many different ways to share the gospel. Find a method that suits your own unique gifts and personality.
- Too busy? Do we really want to say that we are too busy to fulfill the great commission? Do we expect at the judgment that Jesus will excuse us from the single most important responsibility he gave us because we said “I didn’t have the time?”
- Colossians 4:5-6. The terminology in this verse indicates that disciplined thought and planning should go into evangelism.
- A great way to turn a conversation toward spiritual matters is to ask the person how you can pray for him or her.
- We should also discipline ourselves to support others engaged in evangelism and missions by giving, praying, and being open to go if God calls.
- Write down on a piece of paper in a few sentences what the gospel is. This will make it easier to share when the time is appropriate.
- Your personal testimony is often your most effective evangelistic tool. A good practice is to write down your personal testimony, practice saying it, and be able to give it in five minutes or less.
- Will you pray this “dangerous” prayer: Lord, show me how to share the gospel and give me opportunities to share. God is waiting to hear and answer that kind of prayer. There is no greater joy for a Christian than to lead someone to salvation.
- Acts 4:19-20. We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.
- Col 4:3-4. Pray for open doors for the gospel.