

Evangelism – Lesson One - Introduction

Evangelism

- Evangelism is the work of an evangelist; the preaching or promulgation of the gospel; missionary zeal, purpose, or activity.
- The practice of evangelism is spreading the good news about Jesus (for the purpose of causing men and women to believe)

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"Evangelism is not salesmanship. It is not urging people, pressing them, coercing them, overwhelming them, or subduing them. Evangelism is telling a message. Evangelism is reporting good news." – Richard C. Halverson

"One thing I have observed in all my years of ministry is that the most effective and important aspects of evangelism usually take place on an individual, personal level. Most people do not come to Christ as an immediate response to a sermon they hear in a crowded setting. They come to Christ because of the influence of an individual." - John MacArthur

"Evangelism is not an option for the Christian life." - Luis Palau

All Christians are called to evangelize. But, what does that really mean to the individual who may have limited Bible knowledge such as a new convert, or the person who is perfectly satisfied with his own salvation and not interested in evangelizing; or someone who would evangelize if he had the boldness and confidence. Does evangelism have a

specific form? Consider this: Salvation is free for everyone because Jesus paid the high cost. Every born-again believer has received the Holy Spirit of God and belongs to God according to Romans 8:9 and since we have the Spirit of God, we are being formed into His image (2 Cor 3:18) which means that we should become more like Him daily, as we grow in the knowledge of Him. We are called to be imitators of God (Eph 5:1) and the very name “Christian” means Christ-like. So then evangelism, or simply put, sharing the good news about Jesus Christ, is part of Christendom. Jesus wants nothing more than to see all people come to a saving faith in Him (2 Peter 3:9) and He reminds us that as we have freely received, we should freely give (Matt 10:8). That said, does evangelism have a specific form?

For example, is the stay-at-home mom who helps run the play group at her church doing evangelism if she incorporates Bible stories into the craft activities?

Can a play group become an evangelistic play group?

Or does evangelism only occur in more “conventional” tactics: witnessing on the street, leading large crusades? Are those the only ways the gospel of Jesus Christ can be communicated, the only way people can evangelize?

What counts as evangelism?

The essence of evangelism is the message that Jesus Christ is Lord. Evangelism is our human effort of proclaiming this message—which necessarily involves using our human communication, language, idioms, metaphors, stories, experiences, personality, emotions, context, [culture](#), locatedness—and trusting and praying that God, in his sovereign will, will supernaturally use our human and natural means to effect His divine purposes.

In a general sense, evangelism refers to our human efforts of proclaiming this message to any audience of believers and nonbelievers. In a narrower sense, evangelism refers to our human efforts of proclaiming this message to nonbelievers. But in both senses, we proclaim the gospel with the hope that our audience responds by trusting, repenting, and following and obeying Jesus. - Sam Chan [Evangelism in a Skeptical World](#)

Romans 8:9 (NIV)

⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

¹⁸And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:1 (NKJV)

¹Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

⁹The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Matthew 10:8 (NIV)

⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.