



Evangelism – Sunday School

Part 5: Common mistakes made during evangelism

Some examples of mistakes made during evangelism.

- A. Sometimes we assume non-Christians already know what we are talking about.** When engaged in a discussion with a non-Christian involving the gospel, we sometimes use words or phrases they do not understand, or that they understand differently than we do.



1. Think about these words.

- Sinner
- Savior
- Eternal life

First write down how each term would be understood among non-Christians.

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Then try to simply define each term in a way that is true to the biblical meaning and yet understandable to a non-Christian.

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How did you find the exercise? Difficult or simple? Why?

B. Sometimes we try to say too much when it is not the right time.

C. Sometimes we try to appear enthusiastic when we are not really so, and sometimes we are so dull that our lack of passion is plainly seen in our deportment.

D. Sometimes we hide the authority of our message so as to make it less threatening. Some who teach evangelism argue that we should talk “as learners, not authorities. You will seem less threatening, and it will take the pressure off of you.”¹

¹ Go “Why do Christians find evangelism so difficult,”

E. Sometimes we lose the balance between conveying the truth and touching the emotions.

Perhaps we only appeal to the emotions but fail to explain the basic facts of the gospel.

Stott: “Our rationality is part of the divine image.... To deny our rationality is therefore to deny our humanity, to become less than human beings. Scripture forbids us to behave like horses or mules which are ‘without understanding’ and commands us instead in our understanding to be ‘mature.’ Faith can only arise and grow within us by the use of our minds. ‘Those who know thy name put their trust in thee’; their trust springs from their knowledge of the trustworthiness of God’s character.”²

Perhaps we only tell the facts of the gospel but do not aim to stir up the emotions of our hearer.

What is the key?

F. Sometimes we do not press them to do something but just present the information.

Paul: 2 Corinthians 5:20 - “implored”

Jesus: Luke 13:23-25 - “And someone said to him, ‘Lord, will those who are saved be few?’ And he said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’””

Of course, we cannot “coerce” people to become Christians.

G. Sometimes we take the side of the non-Christian who complains about being hurt in the past by a church or another Christian.

How should we handle such a situation?

First, be understanding and compassionate!

Second, at the same time, do not take the side of a non-Christian against Christians.

² John Stott, ???



2. Write down your answers to the questions below.

- Which of these 7 common mistakes have you struggled with most? Please explain.

- What has been most helpful to you in Part 5 of Section 3? Why?

Part 6: Prayer

Prayer must take precedent over any and every method.

How should we pray?

I. We should pray about our attitudes.

Ephesians 6:19-20

Incidentally, Paul's request for prayer also reveals his _____.

II. We should pray for wisdom in what to say and do.

Colossians 4:3-4, "At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – **that I may make it clear**, which is how I ought to speak."

III. We should pray for opportunities to share the gospel.

Colossians 4:3: “At the same time, pray also for us, **that God may open to us a door for the word**, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison....”

IV. We should pray that God would grant success on our efforts so that the people with whom we share would believe.

Romans 10:1: “Brothers, my heart's desire and **prayer to God for them** is that they may be saved.”

Remember:

- First, no man comes to Christ unless the Father draws him (John 6:44).
- Second, the devil has blinded the eyes of the lost so that they cannot see the glory of Christ in the gospel (2 Cor 4:4).

A challenge: **Be diligent in prayer for evangelism.**



3. Take some time now to plead with God together about this matter of evangelism. I encourage you to include in your prayers all the things we just covered in this section.