



## Evangelism – Sunday School

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### **Section 3** **Preparation for Evangelism**

#### **Part 1: Attitudes Necessary for Evangelism**

Philippians 1:15 - “Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.”

One of the most important things we must attend to if we would wish to see our efforts in evangelism fulfill God’s designed purpose is to make sure our \_\_\_\_\_ are prepared.

#### **I. Attitudes towards God**

##### **A. Concern for the glory of God**

##### **B. Love for God**

##### **C. Awe towards God because of the love of God for us**

2 Corinthians 5:14 - “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”

In like manner, when we more and more grasp ...

- the horror of our \_\_\_\_\_ and its consequences,
- the holiness and justice of God,
- the infinite value of the person and work of Christ, the glory of His love in His death and the power of His victory in the resurrection, and
- the beauty of the gift of eternal life,

... our affections will be stirred for our \_\_\_\_\_ and we will talk about His gospel with others more naturally and willingly.

#### **D. Fear of the coming judgment**

2 Corinthians 5:11 - "Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience."

Verse 10 - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

"Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Cor 9:16)

#### **E. Dependence upon God**

There is the tendency in most of us to think that if we ...

- say something just the right way or
- show just enough patience and kindness or
- provide sufficient apologetical evidence,

... then the person we are sharing with will \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 16:14 - "One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul."

Spurgeon:

As for you and for me, what can we do in saving a soul from death? Of ourselves nothing, any more than that pen which lies upon the table could write the Pilgrim's Progress; yet let a Bunyan grasp the pen, and the matchless work is written. So you and I can do nothing to convert souls till God's eternal Spirit takes us in hand, but then He can do wonders by us, and get to Himself glory by us, while it shall be joy enough to us to know that Jesus is honored, and the Spirit magnified.<sup>1</sup>

#### **F. Faith that God will save**

Go out in faith and believe that what you are preaching is powerful and able to change a sinner into one who loves and serves God.

Let me ask: Do you really believe that God can save sinners? Do you believe that through your efforts He can do it?

Calvin wrote, "we are too apt to conclude that our attempts at reclaiming the ungodly are vain and

<sup>1</sup> Steve J. Miller, *C.H. Spurgeon on Spiritual Leadership*, 168.

ineffectual, and forget that God is able to crown them with success.”<sup>2</sup>



1. Take a few minutes to write down your thoughts about the following question.

- Of these 6 attitudes, which do you believe is most absent or weakest in your heart? Please explain.
  
- Take a couple of minutes to share this with your Team Evangelism partner and to pray together about this right now.

## II. Attitudes towards humans

### A. Compassion and not indifference

Correct understanding of the condition of the lost should stir our hearts to have compassion for them.

Spurgeon:

Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of that. The saving of souls, if a man has once gained love to perishing sinners and his blessed Master, will be an all-absorbing passion to him. It will so carry him away, that he will almost forget himself in the saving of others. He will be like the brave fireman, who cares not for the scorch or the heat, so that he may rescue the poor creature on whom true humanity has set its heart. Oh, my brothers and sisters in Christ, if sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.<sup>3</sup>

A pastor from Colorado wrote, “I could not just read my Bible, pray nice prayers and pastor a pleasant little church. My conscience burned with desire to rescue people from impending eternal disaster.”

Matthew 9:35-38

- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the plight of the perishing.

<sup>2</sup> John Calvin, *Commentaries* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996), 5:302.

<sup>3</sup> <http://spurgeon.org/sermons/0349.htm>

- Jesus **was** \_\_\_\_\_ **for** the perishing in their plight.
- Jesus **took** \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of the perishing.

Spurgeon: “God save us from living in comfort while sinners are sinking into hell!”

Walker,

Consider what the Scriptures have to say about hell. Consider that the pictures and representations of hell are symbols and shadows of the reality, and symbols and shadows are necessarily less real, less gripping, less intense than the reality that they represent. If hell is a place where the fire is not quenched and the worm always gnaws (Mark 9:43-48); a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt 13:42, 50; Luke 13:28); of extreme and outer darkness (Matt 25:30); of fire (Matt 5:22; 18:9) and torment (Luke 16:28; Rev 14:11) and condemnation (Matt 23:33; John 5:29); if hell is the least part of what it is presented to be in God’s holy Word, through those Spirit-inspired Scriptures, then *how* in the name and for the sake of our own humanity, let alone our Christian duty, could we ever remain silent about the truth that saves from hell?<sup>4</sup>

## B. Peaceable and not combative

“And the Lord’s servant **must not be quarrelsome** but kind to **everyone**, able to teach, **patiently enduring evil**, correcting his opponents **with gentleness**. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.” (2 Tim 2:24-25)

Three key characteristics.

First, do not be quarrelsome.

Second, be patient.

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<sup>4</sup> Jeremy Walker, *The Brokenhearted Evangelist*, 34-35.

Third, be gentle.

### C. Respectful and not abusive

Acts 17:22ff

John 4

1 Peter 3:15-16 - “but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and **respect**, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”

### D. Humble and not self-righteous

Luke 7:34 - “The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’”

Barrs:

When I was in seminary during the late sixties, one of my fellow students was invited to preach a series of revival meetings at a nearby church. One evening he had stopped to get a meal at a local fast-food place before the service. He met some young people who were arrayed in the typical hippie style of the time: long hair, beards, colorful clothes, and no shoes. After a good conversation together, they asked him where he was going, and why he was “dressed up” in a suit, white shirt, and tie on a weekday evening. He told them about the service he was going to preach at, and they asked if they could come. He was delighted and so they walked together over to the church. The pastor was waiting at the door to welcome people. When he saw the “hippies” he told them politely that they would have to go home and put shoes on their feet—they could not come to the revival service ‘looking like that.’ Of course they did not return.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Barrs, Jerram (2009-05-06). *Learning Evangelism from Jesus* (p. 143). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

How did Jesus come?

Remember, even when doing good works like evangelism, if we are proud, God is \_\_\_\_\_ to us (James 4:6).

William Taylor:

I have somewhere read of a hardened criminal who was condemned to die and waiting for execution. Christian people were deeply interested in him and wished for his salvation. Pastors of different churches visited him and talked with him and prayed with him. But all they did and said seemed only to harden him the more, for they never got near him. They were afraid of him. They never touched him. At length, they bethought themselves of a member of the community, known of all men for his holiness and tenderness and wisdom in the winning of souls, and they got him to visit him. When he entered the condemned cell, he sat down beside the prisoner, by whom also he was well known, and told him the simple story of the cross, and when he had finished, he laid his hand upon the criminal's shoulder and said to him with a look of inexpressible emotion: "Now wasn't it a great sacrifice for the Son of God to lay down his life for guilty sinners like me and you?" In a moment the fountains of the great deep were broken up. The heart of the man was touched. The big tears ran down his cheeks, and the bursting sobs seemed to convulse his frame. From that time he was a different man, and listened with interest to all that was said to him, while ever and anon he would exclaim, "To think of such a good and holy man, as I know him to be, putting himself on a level with me, and saying, 'Sinners like me and you.'"<sup>6</sup>

Walker,

If we come puffed up and pompous with what we are beyond being sinners saved by grace, then we might as well zip our mouths shut on the spot.... You cannot go to another wretched, sinning creature clad in the imagined pomposity of high calling, dignified profession, public position, accumulated wealth, church office, or anything else, and then unload pretentious drivel from a position of illusory moral or social superiority. You must come as a sinner to sinners and speak to them of the pardon that you have obtained, and that is a humbling posture.<sup>7</sup>

### **E. Impartial and not biased**

John 4:27

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<sup>6</sup> William M. Taylor, "The Cleansing of the Leper," in *The Miracles of Our Savior* (New York: Hodder & Stoughton, 1890), 119-120.

<sup>7</sup> Jeremy Walker, *The Brokenhearted Evangelist*, 25.

Rabbi Eliezer: “He who eats the bread of the Samaritans is like one who eats the flesh of swine”<sup>8</sup>

Verse 9 - “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?”

God’s people often have strong biases that influence the way they look at and treat people.

2 Corinthians 5:16 - “From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh...”



3. Who are the “Samaritans” in your area?

What could you and your church do to reach out to them?

What changes in attitude and practice might have to be made?

#### **F. Sincere and not phony**

2 Corinthians 2:17 - “For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.”

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<sup>8</sup> Barrs, Jerram (2009-05-06). *Learning Evangelism from Jesus* (p. 41). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

## G. Bold and not fearful

Boldness means that we ...

- are firmly convinced that what we believe is \_\_\_\_\_,
- are deeply desirous of speaking what we believe so others can hear, and then
- are straightforward and shameless when sharing with them, believing that is the best way for them to understand.

Courage involves taking the risk of losing a friendship, suffering rejection or mocking, all so that we can tell them the gospel with the hope they will believe and be saved.

It is the fear of man that causes many of us to hide in our homes rather than get out and share the gospel.

Sometimes the issue is not evangelism in general but parts of the gospel that we are uncomfortable about sharing.

It should be obvious that if this list of 7 attitudes towards humans is truly crucial to our evangelism, then we should be daily praying that God would more and more work these graces into us.



4. Take a few minutes to write down your thoughts about the following question.

- Of these 7 attitudes, which do you believe is most absent or weakest in your heart? Please explain.
  
- Take a couple of minutes to share this with your Team Evangelism partner and to pray together about this right now.



4. What is one key point you learned in the lesson today that is related to evangelism?  
Please take 2-3 minutes to write your answer below.