



Evangelism – Sunday School

Introduction



1. What is your personal experience with evangelism over the last year? Your church? (this is NOT asking you to be critical of yourself or the church but is simply asking you to share your experience and observations)?

What is your understanding of the practice of evangelism among Reformed Churches?

Wrong assumptions of some outside the reformed camp

One man wrote:

Calvinism is and always has been the death knell of biblical evangelism. I know, I know, there are hyper-Calvinists and there are more “moderate” Calvinists, but at its best, Calvinism casts a chill on biblical evangelism and, at its worst, it absolutely kills biblical evangelism. In its most “hyper” form, it really borders on “another gospel.” It very nearly killed Baptist churches and missions in the 18th and 19th centuries.¹

Calvin, along with most other key reformed figures, was decidedly evangelistic.

“since we do not know who belongs to the number of the predestined and who does not, it befits us so to feel as to wish that all be saved. So it will come about that, whoever we come across, we shall study to make him a sharer of peace... even severe rebuke will be administered like medicine, lest they should perish or cause others to perish. But it will be for God to make it

¹ <https://preachkjv.wordpress.com/2011/11/23/calvinism-the-death-knell-of-evangelism/>.

effective in those whom He foreknew and predestined.”²

Note: Calvin’s understanding of the doctrine of predestination ...

- did **not** in his mind nullify the necessity of _____ of the gospel,
- did **not** extinguish a desire to see _____.

One man wrote: “Now, I don’t care what any Calvinist has to say about it. Calvinism, as a doctrinal commitment, has always had the effect of being a drag, to put it the best way, kindest way, a drag on missions and evangelism.”³

J.I. Packer:⁴ though many have thought that the Puritans put little emphasis on evangelism, the Puritans, in fact, viewed it as **one of their _____ concerns**.

Spurgeon wrote:

I am as firm a believer in the doctrines of grace as any man living, and a true Calvinist after the order of John Calvin himself; but if it be thought an evil thing to bid the sinner lay hold of eternal life, I will yet be more evil in this respect, and herein imitate my Lord and his apostles, who, though they taught that salvation is of grace, and grace alone, feared not to speak to men as rational beings and responsible agents.... Beloved, cling to the great truth of electing love and divine sovereignty, but let not these bind you in fetters when, in the power of the Holy Ghost, you become fishers of men.⁵

Failures from within the reformed camp



2. What do you think is perhaps the biggest reason Reformed Christians, by and large, have been weak or have failed in the area of evangelism? **Please take 2-3 minutes to write your answer below.**

² John Calvin, *Concerning the Eternal Predestination of God*, trans. J.K.S. Reid (London: James Clarke and Co., Limited, 1961), 138.

³ As quoted at <http://founders.org/fj45/calvinism-evangelism-founders-ministries/>.

⁴ These thoughts come from J.I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness*, “The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life,” Chapter XVIII, as found on <http://www.the-highway.com/articleJune09.html>

⁵ Eric Hayden, *Searchlight on Spurgeon: Spurgeon “Speaks for Himself”* (Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publications, 1973) 73.

One of the largest reasons Reformed Christians have failed in the area of evangelism is that...

Section 1

A Biblical Theology of Evangelism

I. Creation and Evangelism

When God created man, man was in a state of innocence and without sin.

II. The Fall and Evangelism

When man trespassed God's command, he became guilty of sin and hence was condemned as deserving the judgment of death.

Furthermore, man became a prisoner of his own devices and a slave to sin.

Since all humans are the offspring of Adam, they all share in both his guilt and his corruption.

- They share in his guilt through imputation.
- They share in his corruption through being his biological offspring.

Because of all this, all humans are in themselves without _____.

From the moment of the Fall, _____ became necessary.

III. Redemption and Evangelism



1. Who preached the first evangelistic message recorded in the Bible? Where is that message recorded in the Bible? [Please take a couple of minutes to write your answer below.](#)

The very first evangelistic message preached was by _____.

This gospel message is looking ahead to _____.



2. From this point forward, did evangelism continue to take place? Or does it **not** appear again until the NT era? In other words, are there other instances of evangelism in the OT era, or was this just a type of what was to come in the NT era and we have to wait all the way to the NT era before we see any more evangelism? *Please take a few minutes to write your answer below.*

I believe that there was evangelism of a sort during the OT era.

First, there are situations in which the gospel is communicated through _____.

- Galatians 3:8, “And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the **gospel** beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘In you shall all the nations be blessed.’”
- Psalm 51 - Jeremy Walker wrote, David’s “profound awareness of his sin matched by his grasp of the saving mercies of a holy God, the degree to which sin offends God, his desperate need of the cleansing that only God can provide, his soul-wrenching pleas to be brought back to the favor of God...”⁶ are followed by a promise in verse 13: “Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.”
- Psalm 96:3-5: “³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! ⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.”
- Parents were to instruct their children concerning the things of the Lord that they might know Him (Ps 78:4-7).

Second, evangelism took place through _____.

Third, evangelism took place through _____.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Ezekiel 34

Fourth, evangelism was _____ through the **blessings God poured out upon Israel when they walked in His ways.**

Solomon

Psalm 67:1-2: “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.”

⁶ Jeremy Walker, *The Brokenhearted Evangelist*, 10.



3. In the NT era, did evangelism change? If so, in what ways? **Please take a few minutes to write your answer below.**

On the one hand, evangelism has changed somewhat once we get to the NT era.

First, evangelism is not primarily that the nations come to us.

Second, we no longer have the types and shadows.

On the other hand, there are some consistencies between the evangelism of the NT era and the evangelism of the OT era.

First, evangelism in the NT era communicates the same _____.

Second, evangelism in the NT era is connected to _____.

Third, evangelism in the NT era is _____ by how we live our lives.

IV. Restoration and Evangelism



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.

Homework:

- Read the books assigned and take notes related to the questions on the syllabus so you are ready when it is time to discuss the books.
We will discuss the book by Greg Gilbert during the fourth week, so read that one first.
As you read through Gilbert's book, take down notes of the essential elements of the gospel.