

Words TO LIVE BY

Part 3: “Evangelism”

Evangelism is that set of intentional activities governed by the goal of initiating persons into the kingdom of God.

~ *William Abraham, The Logic of Evangelism*

The evangelist’s task is not to *prove* that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Our task is to show by the way we speak and act that we believe he is.

~ *Richard Stoll Armstrong, Service Evangelism*

Evangelization must denounce anything, any power, any program, any trend which opposes God’s purpose for humanity.

~ *Mortimer Arias, Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus*

To evangelize non-Christian persons without loving them fully is not to evangelize them well. To love non-Christian persons without evangelizing them is not to love them well. Loving God well means loving one’s non-Christian neighbour evangelistically and evangelizing one’s non-Christian neighbour lovingly.

~ *Scott J. Jones, The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbour*

The basis and power of this Good News message lies in the certainty that “God is for us”, which is guaranteed by Jesus’ message and his offering of his life for us.

~ *Walter Klaiber, Call and Response: Biblical Foundations of a Theology of Evangelism*

We need to correct the almost-invincible tendency of our evangelization to present the gospel in terms of “blessing” – benefits to be received, answers to all our questions, remedy to all our evils, new life to be enjoyed, a future state to be secured – without at the same time presenting the challenges, demands, and tasks of the kingdom.

~ *Mortimer Arias, Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus*

One of the most significant ways in which the church fails to be the church is when it becomes a club for the benefit of its own members.

~ *Scott J. Jones, The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbour*

The church of Jesus Christ lives in gathering and scattering, in being called together and in being sent forth. This dual motion is as necessary for her life as breathing in and breathing out is for human life. Wherever one or the other atrophies, the local church becomes ill and dies away.

~ *Walter Klaiber, Call and Response: Biblical Foundations of a Theology of Evangelism*

(Continued...)

Evangelism is a polymorphous activity.

~ *Scott J. Jones, The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbour*

I have no idea what that means.

~ *Bruxy Cavey, Teaching Pastor*

Oh wait! I think I know! I think being "polymorphous" means that evangelism can take many forms. ...maybe.

~ *Bruxy Cavey, Teaching Pastor*

Preach the gospel always. Use words if necessary.

~ *Francis of Assisi*

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

~ *Romans 1:16 (TNIV)*

Evangelism is just preaching the gospel, the evangel. It is a work of communication in which Christians make themselves mouthpieces for God's message of mercy.

~ *J.I. Packer, Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*

The work of the church in invitation is to point away from itself to a greater and more primordial reality – the kingdom of God.

~ *William Abraham, The Logic of Evangelism*

Evangelism is that set of loving, intentional activities governed by the goal of initiating persons into Christian discipleship in response to the reign of God.

~ *Scott J. Jones, The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbour*

Evangelism is the Good News of the Kingdom of God on earth, that Kingdom personalized and embodied in Christ.

~ *E. Stanley Jones, in David B. Barret's Evangelize!: A Historical Survey of the Concept*