

Unembarrassed

Addressing the Why, What, & How of Evangelism

Part 1: MOTIVATION

Part 2: METHOD

Part 3: MESSAGE

INTRODUCTION – Bridging The Cultural Divide

Our reason for being is _____.

Our reason for being together is _____.

Our reason for being HERE together is _____.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

The Bible is clear about two things regarding evangelism:

- 1) *There are aspects of the Gospel that will be scandalous (offensive) to people.*
- 2) *We are not to create any unnecessary offenses (stumbling blocks). Our goal is to minimize the distance between where a person is at and where the Gospel is coming from.*

Our job is to get the message across the cultural divide while adding (or removing) as little offense as possible.

Ways The Early Church Evangelized

1. _____ practical needs.
Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-35; 6:1-7; 2 Corinthians 4:5

All men love those that love them.

It is particular to Christians alone to love those that hate them.

~ Tertullian of Carthage (155-230 CE)

See how they love one another!
(Reporting the growing pagan response to Christians)

~ Tertullian of Carthage (155-230 CE)

They love one another almost before they know one another!

~ Caecilius of Carthage (3rd Century CE)

2. _____ like Jesus.
Philippians 1:29; 1 Peter 2:20-21; 3:14-17; 4:1, 12-16

We are not ashamed of Christ, for we rejoice to be his disciples and in his name to suffer. ... The more we are moved down by you, the more in number we grow. The blood of Christians is seed.

~ Tertullian of Carthage (155-230 CE)

They do not practice speeches, but exhibit good works; when struck they do not strike again; when robbed they do not go to law; they give to those that ask of them, and they love their neighbours as themselves.

~ Athenagoras of Athens (177 CE)

A Pagan philosopher who converted to Christianity

3. _____ questions raised by our lifestyle and faith.
1 Peter 3:15-16
4. _____ people to meet or learn about Jesus.
John 1:40-46; 4:28-42; Acts 19:8-10
5. _____ conversation beginning with their point of reference.
John 4:7-42; Acts 8:26-39
6. _____ the Gospel (publicly and house to house).
Acts 5:42; 14:8-18; 17:16-34; 20:20-21
7. _____ about the life of Christ.
John 20:30-31
8. _____ their own experience.
John 9:24-25

CONCLUSION – What Is Your Experience With Jesus?

Galatians 2:20-21

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP & REVIEW...

1. Explore and discuss the implications of this quote by Bishop Lesslie Newbigin: *The best hermeneutic of the gospel in postmodern society is churches and Christians who genuinely live in a Christlike way.*
2. Use your notes to review this week's message. As you go, talk about what challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read one of the only examples the New Testament gives us of gospel preaching to Gentiles in **Acts 17:16-34**. a) Talk about what verse stands out to you the most and why. b) Go through the passage slowly and make a list of the applicable principles regarding evangelism. c) Discuss how each principle might apply to our evangelistic efforts today, both in your life personally and in the corporate life of The Meeting House community.
4. Go through the same process as #3 above with **Acts 14:8-18**.

SO WHAT?...

5. Review the eight ways the early Church evangelized listed in your notes. a) What are the strengths and weaknesses of each for our culture today? b) What is one thing you could commit to doing in order to grow in this important area of the Christian life? c) Pray for each other about this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, September 11 / 18, 2005