



Part 1: *The Privilege of Partnership*

INTRODUCTION – Our Reason for Being Here

Greek = *Euangelion* }
Latin = *Evangelium* }

Evangelism: That aspect of the church's mission which seeks to offer every person the chance to encounter the good news of Jesus.

DINE IN – Commissioning as Release Rather than Rule

Matthew 28:18-20

- For most of church history, Christians thought this was only for the original Apostles (taught by both Calvin and Luther). William Carey (1792) was the first to challenge this successfully.
- All of God's authority is in Christ.
- As we go, disciple-making is our shared mission.
- *Matheteuo* (verb for *mathetes*, disciple) – to train, to teach, to disciple
- Baptism signifies the end of the old, the beginning of the new, washing and rebirth into the worldwide family of faith.
- Discipling others is a matter of mentoring, training them in following Jesus, not just teaching theological content.

Mark 16:15-18

Luke 24:44-49

John 15:26; 17:14-23; 20:21

- Jesus sends us in the same way he was sent. Jesus is our model for evangelism: incarnating truth, serving needs, accepting sinners, rebuking the religious.
- If he was despised and rejected by many people (especially religious conservatives) because of his message, then we should not expect better.
- Jesus points the way between the extremes of becoming like the world on the one hand, and running from the world on the other. We are to *engage* our culture, but with a *different* essence (like salt on food or light in darkness).
- Our evangelism is strengthened when we create opportunities to demonstrate our transformed relationships, our diversity in unity.

Acts 4:20; 13:47; 2 Corinthians 5:14

TAKE OUT – The Natural Result of Supernatural Experience

Evangelism should be less of a duty and more of a desire. It is the natural and normal outpouring of a Christ-centred, God-impacted, kingdom-enjoying life. We ARE the light of the world and the salt of the earth. It's significant that Paul never has to instruct any of the churches to whom he writes to evangelize. That much they were already doing quite naturally. The commission passages in Scripture are less commands to be awkwardly and artificially obeyed and more promises of the presence of Christ in partnership with us as we naturally and unavoidably manifest our faith to others. If you are not showing and sharing your faith regularly, you may be artificially holding back from doing what would come naturally if you stopped worrying and cultivated some *gelassenheit* (let-go-ness).

CONCLUSION – Risky Business

Evangelism will stretch you, challenge you, and change you. Nothing will ignite your spiritual experience and deepen your understanding of Christ like evangelism. Remember the story about the conversion of Cornelius (a spiritual seeker) is as much about the conversion of Peter (the evangelist), who's understanding of Jesus and personal practices are forever altered (**Acts 10:34**).

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. What has been your experience, if any, in doing or receiving evangelism?
2. What are you most/least looking forward to in this series?
3. In your own words, what is the "gospel"?

Look to the Book...

4. Read Christ's prayer in **John 17**. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) What does this passage tell us about Christ's own self-understanding? C) Using this passage, how would you argue against i) the Muslim understanding of Christ as merely a human prophet? ii) The New Age understanding of Christ as merely an enlightened guru telling us all how we can achieve the same thing he did? iii) The common notion that Jesus is one among many possible ways to God? D) Jesus warns of the world hating us. Can you think of examples demonstrating how or why this might be true? E) For Christian unity to be evidence of the reality of Jesus, non-believers need to have exposure to diverse Christians together. What are some ways we can facilitate this? F) What kind of people (individually and together) do you think we will become as verse 26 becomes increasingly manifest? Talk about examples..

So What?...

5. Review the TAKE OUT section of your notes. Do you have any speed bumps or road blocks that hinder your natural desire to tell others about Jesus? Is there something you could do or change this week to become more free? Pray for each other about this.

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching