



Part 3: *The Anatomy of Conversion*

INTRODUCTION – Confusing Kingdoms

When we talk about our (or any) nation as a “Christian” nation, we compromise the gospel. People are Christians, not nations. Nationalism blends together the kingdom of Christ and our earthly national kingdom. Nationalism was strong in Jesus’ day, and he taught against it in order to offer something better – his new transnational nation.

1 Peter 2:9

DINE IN – Elements of Conversion

God’s Job...

- Preparing – Acts 14:17; 17:22-28
- Convicting – John 16:8
- Enabling – John 6:44; 12:32; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9
- Rebirth & Adoption - John 3:1-21; Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:15; 1 Peter 2:23
- Forgiveness & Renewal - 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Baptism into the Body - 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Filling & Guiding

* Note: For more of Christ’s accomplishment on our behalf, see “Images of the Atonement” (*One Day*: Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010).

Our Job...

- Being a witness by being like Jesus
- Learning, absorbing, understanding the Gospel
- Watching, listening, and learning to discern how God has already been at work
- Presenting, proclaiming, explaining the Gospel
- Answering, defending, challenging
- Baptism – Matthew 28:18-20
- Training/Discipleship – Matthew 28:18-20

The Newbie’s Job...

- Learn, discern, investigate, ask
- Counting the cost - Luke 14:25-35
- Turn & trust / repent & believe / follow & obey
Mark 1:14-15; John 3:16; 6:29; Acts 6:7
Luke 9:23-25; 14:33; 18:18-30; 19:8-9
Romans 3:26; 9:30-32; Ephesians 2:8-10
- Baptism - Acts 2:38; 8:36-38; 10:47-48; etc.
- Embrace and be embraced by Christian community (the church)
Mark 3:33-35; Luke 18:29-30; Acts 2:41-47; Ephesians 2:19
- Join the mission – Luke 5:10-11

TAKE OUT – The Freedom of Evangelism

Rather than be a task we are forced to do to prove we are serious Christians, evangelism is the release to be who we are naturally (once we have been supernaturally invaded by God’s grace). We are not responsible to convince anyone or save anyone or convict anyone, but rather free to talk about the most exciting reality in our lives. We are not responsible to get someone to convert. We are responsible for speaking faithfully as opportunities arise. Properly understood then, evangelism is exciting, freeing, and celebratory.

Luke 15:7, 10, 22-24; Acts 16:34
Mark 4:26-29; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

CONCLUSION – Putting a Pebble in Their Shoe

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

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HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. How does calling Canada or the United States a “Christian nation” potentially distort the Gospel?

Look to the Book...

2. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-11. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) What is keeping the Christians Paul is writing to from maturing? Is it just lack of education? C) How does knowing that you’re not responsible to plant, water, and harvest in every relationship make you feel about evangelism? D) What are some ways you could plant the seed of the gospel into someone else’s life? Brainstorm practical examples. E) Knowing that it is God who causes growth and that we cannot force the timing, how might that influence our evangelism, individually and as a church? F) Knowing that the foundation for building a Christian life is Jesus, how will that inform our Gospel conversations? How will it inform your life?

So What?...

3. Talk about one seed you could try planting in someone’s life this week. What is one pebble you could put in someone’s shoe for them to think about? Get specific about your plan. Give and get feedback about your plans with others in your group and fine-tune it accordingly. Commit to carrying out your seed-planting plan this week, and debrief when you’re together next.

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching