

## A Crash Course on Evangelism – Matthew 5:16

Evangelism is a popular topic with most Christians, and yet a neglected topic with other Christians—I think for many of us, evangelism is a difficult thing—something we know we should do, and want to do, but aren't very good at...

Thus, I want to address the topic of evangelism, from the perspective of letting our light shine—of being a shining light in a dark world—I want to suggest some practical helps, errors to avoid, and motives to encourage...

### A. Practical helps

1. Every Christians is a light—this of course in no way lessons the collective aspect of us being a light...
2. The Church is a city upon a hill, which collectively shines for all the earth to see—the church is a light...
3. But individually Christians are lights—they are individual lampstands, that give life to every house...
4. [1] Live above reproach in every area of life—that is, we must shine as lights in our daily callings...
5. I fear, there are many Christians who talk about taking the gospel to Africa, who are terrible witnesses at work and school...
6. Tit.2:9-10—"Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things (1Pet.3:1-2; 2:13-15)..."
7. [2] Befriend those who are providentially near you, v16—"Let your lights so shine before men, that they may see your good works..."
8. That is—we must focus our efforts, primarily on building friendships with those people we see often...
9. Let me ask you—how many non-Christians do you know enough, that they can see your good works...
10. Obviously I am not suggesting that we have non-Christians as our best and closest friends—but I am suggesting—we get to know those around us...
11. Most people enjoy talking about themselves—get to know those at your garage, doctor's office, school, and neighborhood...
12. [3] Share common experiences with those around you—that is, don't be afraid of being yourself around unbelievers...
13. Now, here I want to talk a little about this word fellowship—the word literally means—to share in common...
14. In the strictest sense, Christians can only have true fellowship with others Christians—because we alone share the most important things in common (what does light and darkness have in common)...
15. Furthermore—we are expressly commanded—"have no fellowship with the unfruitful deeds of darkness..."
16. But, this does not deny that we have many things in common with nonChristians, for we both live in this fallen world...
17. Ecc.9:2—"All things *come* alike to all: one event *happens* to the righteous and the wicked; to the good, the clean, and the unclean; to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As is the good, so *is* the sinner; he who takes an oath as *he* who fears an oath..."
18. [4] Be sure to mingle God's word with your works—we must remember our works never saved anyone...

19. Phil.2:14-16—"Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain..."
20. [5] Remember to pray that God would bless your efforts—pray He would open doors and give you boldness and wisdom to speak (1Pet.2:11-12)...

### **B. Errors to avoid**

1. [1] The error of isolation—by this I mean the mindset that says—we must stay as far from the world as possible...
2. We never have any unsaved family members, co-workers, or neighbors, over for a meal or barbeque...
3. Our text demands that we rub our salt into the meat and shine our light before men that they can see our good works...
4. [2] The error of imitation—this is the other extreme—it says we must be like the world to win the world...
5. If we don't have tattoos, wear the newest fashions, watch the latest movies, then we simply are not relevant...
6. But surely brethren, this defeats the whole purpose, because salt that loses its flavor, becomes useless...
7. Some of you have heard the saying—though the boat must be in the water, the water must not be in the boat...
8. So too, if the church is to help the world, it must be in the world, but the world can never be in the church...
9. [3] The error of indifference—by this I mean—we simply become fixated on our own home and life...
10. [4] The error of fearfulness—by this I mean, we are afraid of what others will say of us and to us (Matt.5:11-12)...

### **C. Motives to encourage**

1. [1] The condition of the world, 1Jn.5:19—"And we know that the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one..."
2. We must look at the world from two perspectives—they are VILLIANS and they are VICTIMES...
3. We must look at people with the eyes of our Savior, Lk.19:41—"and seeing the city, He wept over it..."
4. [2] The purpose of the church—by this I mean, the church is the only light this world will ever know...
5. The fireman is the only person running into a burning building—so too, we must run back into the darkness...
6. [3] The example of the Savior, Jn.12:46—"I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness..."
7. Loving people is not liberal it's Biblical and it's Christ-like—we must love with our words and works...
8. [4] The glory of the Father—"Let your so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glory your Father in heaven