

## **Building a Culture of Evangelism**

### *Lesson 2: Four Aspects of Evangelism (Stiles pgs. 29-39)*

#### I. Introduction

A. The goal of this series is to help our culture of evangelism grow at YOPC.

#### B. Review Stiles' definition of Evangelism

Amplified definition, "Evangelism is teaching (heralding, proclaiming, preaching) the gospel (the message from God that lead us to salvation) with the aim (hope, desire, goal) to persuade (convince, convert) (ibid.)."

#### II. Four Parts of Stiles Definition

##### A. Teaching

1. No evangelism without words!
2. The Christian Faith is a teaching faith.
  - a) Old Testament Deut. 6
  - b) Jesus first act of compassion was to teach! What percentage of the gospel accounts do you think is Jesus' teaching? What was the content of Jesus message? Mark 1:14-15
  - c) Paul's method of evangelism was teaching. When Paul went to a new city, what did he do first? Acts 17:1-4; 1 Timothy 2:5-7 (cf. 2 Timothy 1:11)
3. "If you don't know how to teach the gospel, you may not truly understand it. And if you do not understand it, you may not be a true Christian (30-31)."
4. The Lord uses ordinary means to draw sinners to himself. Romans 10:14-15

##### B. Gospel

1. Two dangers we face, making the gospel to small or too big
  - a) A Shrunken Gospel. The gospel is not just "how we get saved". The gospel is "the door of salvation and the pattern for life." Not just the ABC's of the Christian life but the A to Z! (32)
  - b) Bloated Gospel. The gospel is too big when we say it is "everything". The gospel is not Christ and (fill in the blank of your favorite doctrine and/or cause here).
2. A Good Definition of the Gospel
  - a) "The gospel is the joyful message from God that leads us to salvation (33)."
  - b) The gospel answers four questions (33-34):
    - (1) Who is God? "God is our Creator. "He is loving, holy, and just. One day he will execute perfect justice against all sin."

- (2) Why are we in such a mess? “People are made in the image of God. We are beautiful and amazing creatures with dignity, worth, and value. But through our willful, sinful rebellion against God, we have turned from being his children to his enemies. Still, all people have the capacity to be in a restored loving relationship with God.”
- (3) What did Christ do? “Christ is the Son of God, whose sinless life gave him the ability to become the perfect sacrifice. Through his death on the cross, he ransomed sinful people. Christ’s death paid for the sins of all who come to him in faith. Christ’s resurrection from the dead is the ultimate vindication of the truth of these claims.”
- (4) How do we get back to God? “The respond God requires from us is to acknowledge our sin, repent, and believe in Christ. So we turn from sin, especially the sin of unbelief, and turn to God in faith, with the understanding that we will follow him the rest of our days.”

c) Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation

C. Aim

1. We must realize everyone is on one of two roads, the road to eternal life or eternal punishment. This gives us our aim.
2. People don’t just need a “data transfer”. Remember our objections, anticipate theirs. Do this with compassion, understanding and love (1 Peter 3:15).
3. This will help us to “stay focused” and to have intentionality in our relationships. An aim helps redirect our focus.

D. Persuade

1. Our aim is to persuade others to follow Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:11). “we persuade, but we do not manipulate; we persuade, but we are not the ones who bring about repentance or conversion (36).” How is this persuasion different than some of the types of persuasion we are more familiar with in other churches?
2. How are sinners converted? Ephesians 2:8. How does this comfort us as we do evangelism?

III. Summary Conclusion

A. What Happens If We Get Evangelism Wrong (39)? As a church...

- B. “Unbiblical evangelism is a method of assisted suicide for a church, so there is much at stake in getting evangelism right (ibid.).” Like suicide counselors, our aim is to persuade people of the ledge with the hope of the gospel. Off the ledge and into the safe embrace of the Savior!

Next Week: No SS 4/16, 4/23- What does a church with a healthy culture of evangelism look like? (Chapter 2)