

How to Begin Doing Biblical Evangelism

Men's Study Kickoff Breakfast

Saturday, September 23, 2016

Col. 4:2–6 – Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. 5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Biblical evangelism is very individual and permits the gospel declaration through your unique life and situation, if you will but yield yourself to God and be available.

01) We must pray if we are to be obedient in evangelism (v2). Prayer is the spiritual foundation for sharing the Gospel. Evangelism should be done in a way consistent with the Gospel. Jesus is Lord and in control of all things. Therefore, our approach to sharing Christ with others must take this into account. We should be dependent on the Lord and ask Him to open hearts. Actions:

- *Commit to pray for one person to come to Christ. Let's call him your E-Man.*
- *Pray that God would open this person's heart to Him through a) conviction of sin, b) fear of sins's penalty, and c) a longing for true life and peace.*

02) We must express thankfulness if we are to be obedient in evangelism (v2b). Such prayers are to overflow with gratitude. The Gospel calls people who are alienated from Christ and His people into a new way of living as part of His Body, therefore evangelism is essentially relational and must convey truth meaningfully to persons. As we express our faith with gratitude, then we distinguish ourselves from those without hope (1Pt. 3:15). Actions:

- *Pray for your E-man with gratitude for your salvation, for knowing you have eternal life, for peace with God through Christ, for being in the body of Christ.*
- *Turn your gratitude into a prayer for your E-man.*

03) We must ask for an open door if we are to be obedient in evangelism (v3). Prayer opens the door for timely opportunities for evangelism. Paul asked specifically for an "open door" and thus recognized that God provides fruit at a harvest of His choosing (Acts 16:6-9). Actions:

- *Expect God to open doors of opportunity: be willing to a) identify with Christ, b) share your testimony, c) inquire of a person's spiritual status.*
- *Be faithful to walk through the open doors with those whom God has put in your life.*