

“THE CONVERSION DISTINCTIVE”

Matt 28:18-20

Article on various movements – Calvary Chapel, etc. What makes you unique? Calvary Chapel: One of main 3 - Casual dress! One of our main distinctives is conversion. This must be understood, believed for, protected and fought for.

I. THE NECESSITY OF CONVERSION

A. Jesus final words - what is important to God: Conversion! *V19 baptizing them...*

1. This was a complete turning from your old life – and beginning a new life
 - a. Jewish conversion
 - b. John the Baptist applied to the KOG: Repent! Change your actions...
2. God’s ultimate desire is conversion
 - a. *Luke 19:10* For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."
 - b. *Mark 16:16* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
 1. People don’t just need to go to church – they need to be saved
3. We cannot be distracted away from – or satisfied with less than conversions

B. This is the power of every church over the long haul

1. **This is where loyalty comes from:** Religious world – people go church shopping
 - a. Churches will go through tough times: Saved people will fight it through – will last
2. **This is where disciples come from:** *V19 go and make disciples...baptizing* (they are completely linked)
 - a. Only people who are radically changed by supernatural revelation will lay down their lives
 1. Mike Cooke’s testimony: When the penny dropped – my life revolved around the things of God!
3. **This is what God blesses:** *V18 all authority...*
 - a. Don’t know if you can count on God fighting for/blessing soup kitchens/social justice programs
4. **This is what brings glory to God:** If your marketing is slick – the world has that, too!
 - a. Sinners saved/transformed: God is glorified – because only he can do that

II. FIGHTING FOR CONVERSIONS

A. Conversion must be protected

1. Parable of the soils: An outside force tries to prevent conversion
 - a. *Matthew 13:19* When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.
2. So we see the puzzling aspect of sweet, loving Jesus regularly denouncing people
 - a. Snakes! Hypocrites!...Religious people (people who identify with God – but there are odd/false ideas)
3. Jesus was actually protecting his true converts/disciples from being damaged or ruined
 - a. *Matthew 16:6* ⁶ Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

B. Every pastor must protect his converts

1. **This is why we don’t join with other churches:**
 - a. Your good converts meet people who have false doctrine/don’t preach against immorality
2. **You must protect converts from religious people:**
 - a. *Acts 19:10* And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.
 1. Know who is coming to your church
 2. Watch religious people: Who they are talking to
 2. Warn or restrict them from speaking to your converts
 4. Get rid of damaging people

III. BELIEVING FOR CONVERSIONS

A. It is no accident that Jesus begins his commission with supernatural power

1. *Matthew 28:18* And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
 - a. **You have to believe in God’s power to save/convert people**
 1. Our city is/these people are...All authority is given to me – Jesus saves!
 - b. **You have to allow God to save/convert people**
 1. We want to rush/demand that people change – because we don’t believe or trust God
 2. God is better at conversion than you are!
 - a. Vicky: You were patient with me. I still wanted to go to bars – I thought I could go and not drink. One night I went to the bar: Someone spilled their drink on me, my table was covered in ashes/cigarettes – I saw people dancing and thought: This is stupid! What am I doing here? And I never went back.
 - c. **You have to fight for conversions:**
 1. You pray to come into contact with people who can be converted Acts 16:14
 2. You fight for people in prayer: Pray them through/fight the devil off them/pray for revelation