

"THE PURPOSE OF EVANGELISM"

Luke 9:1-2

The centerpiece of our church is evangelism. It is our distinctive – that separates us from other churches. It is important that we understand why evangelism is so important.

I. EVANGELISM AND RESCUE

A. Evangelism is not a human invention or program: It comes from the heart of God!

1. **V2 he sent them to preach the Kingdom of God** *Luke 19:10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*
 - a. Because He cares and wants to rescue the lost – He wants us to care and rescue the lost
2. People need to be evangelized b/c of their desperate condition
 - a. People are hurting/lonely/empty/addicted/tormented: *Ephesians - without God/without hope!*
3. People need to be evangelized b/c they are on their way to eternal hell if they don't get saved!
 - a. *Rich man in Luke is still in hell right now!* b. **2 Corinthians 5:11** *Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...*
4. But most people don't know that they are lost – or they don't know there is an answer
 - a. **V2 he sent them to preach the Kingdom of God** let them know that God can come down into their hearts/lives and change everything!
 1. Evangelism is literally a rescue mission

B. We can only evangelize/evangelize over time if we have a change of heart

1. We are by nature selfish & self-interested
 - a. God has to put his love in our hearts so we will continue to evangelize over time
 1. **2 Corinthians 5:14** *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.*
2. You need to have a passion – and transmit that passion to others

II. EVANGELISM AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH

A. Evangelism brings personal spiritual health

1. A principle of health is the principle of flow: **Things that flow remain healthy**
 - a. *Water: If it doesn't flow it becomes stagnant* b. *Blood: Blockages/restrictions cause problems*
2. This is true spiritually: If you receive the life of God and keep it to yourself – you become unhealthy
 - a. Selfish believers become vulnerable to attacks – easily sidetracked away from God
3. When we give out spiritual life: It brings spiritual health *John 7:38 ...out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

B. Evangelism brings spiritual health in the church

1. Churches that don't evangelize become spiritually unhealthy
 - a. *They get bored – easily diverted* b. *They focus on other people's faults & fight*
2. When a church has a focus on evangelism – it produces spiritual life & health
 - a. *They have a reason for existence* b. *A reason to give* c. *Something that pushes them out of selfishness*
 1. **Acts 2:46-47** *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

III. EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

A. Discipleship is absolutely connected to evangelism

1. Most of the church operates by schooling/education: *If you know certain things – you are qualified to Pastor*
2. But this is often separate from people: *Like learning combat/fighting from a book: Combat is very different!*
3. Pastoring is all about people: Winning people – and working with people
 - a. *Can you get people to come/be converted?* b. *Can you work with them wisely so they survive?*

B. The answer to those questions are found in evangelism: **Evangelism brings discipleship development!**

1. **Do you have the heart of a Pastor? Do you care for people?**
 - a. Evangelism is tangible test of compassion: *Does it bother you that people are lost/going to hell?*
 1. *People who don't evangelize are selfish: Won't make good Pastors*
2. **Do you have an anointing – a supernatural dimension that produces fruitfulness?**
 - a. People don't respond b/c of spiritual resistance: You can change that
 1. *You can ask God for anointing that breaks the yoke* 2. *You can pray demons off of people*
3. **Do you have the wisdom to work people through so they can make it?**
 - a. It takes wisdom to work with people!
 1. You have to be able to make a relational connection: *Make people comfortable with you*
 2. You have to be wise in working out how much they need/how much they can handle
 - a. *Comments: I lost a lot of people b/c I gave them too much, too fast*
 - b. There are no Apps/manuals for that: **You have to ask God to give you wisdom & sensitivity**

C. Evangelism is what a Pastor looks for to choose disciples

1. Men tell me they are stirred/I want to be a disciple: *I tell them: Get people saved, and work with new converts!*