

May 12, 2024

Evangelism Is Fundamental

by Ken Weliever

In the comic strip "Peanuts," Lucy tells her brother, Linus that she has "converted" a school classmate to her way of thinking religiously. Linus is surprised, especially knowing how Lucy operates!

"How did you do it?" Linus asked.

"I told him everything I believe and asked him if he believed it, too." Lucy explained. "Then when we came to something he didn't see my way, I just hit him over the head with my lunch box until he believed it!"

I supposed we've all witnessed that kind of evangelism. Oh, not literally hitting someone over the head with a lunch box, or anything else. But evangelism that is aggressive. Belligerent. And even insulting.

In a world that says we ought to keep our faith private, God wants us to take the saving Gospel of Christ into all the world (Mk. 16;15-16). We should not be ashamed of the gospel, or Jesus Christ. When first century Christians were persecuted they did not recoil or recant, but went everywhere preaching the Word (Acts 8:4).

Evangelism ought to be a fundamental facet of our Christian walk. However, there is a right way to seek converts. And a wrong way! The apostle Paul gives this inspired advice that would improve our evangelistic efforts.

"Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond

to each person." (Col. 4:5-6, NASU)

In these two verses there are four things we can do to be more effective when sharing our faith with others

(1) Exercise wisdom.

Knowledge is obviously important in teaching others about Christ, but effective outreach also requires wisdom. Sound judgment. Prudence. Understanding.

Wisdom seeks to understand others. Their point of view. Background. Religious experiences. Spiritual problems. And biblical understanding.

(2) Be Aware of Opportunities.

There are many seekers in this world today. Hurting souls. Depressed souls. Lost souls. They feel empty on the inside. They are searching for something, but are not sure what it is.

Christians have the opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus. And to lead people into a spiritual relationship that will change their lives and bless them eternally.

We need to seek opportunities to share our faith. See the opportunities when they present themselves. And then seize the opportunities that we see.

(3) Employ gracious speech.

Hypercritical, unkind language does not win people to Christ. While we are commanded to "speak the truth" to those who need to hear it, the Bible says to do it in the spirit of love. (Eph. 4:16).

I can contend for the faith without

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class - Tuesday, May 14 at 10 a.m.

Singing - Northwest church of Christ in Austin, June 1, 10:30 a.m.

Gospel Meeting - South Loop church of Christ in Taylor, June 28-30

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

being contentious. I can disagree without displaying a disagreeable spirit. I can affirm the truth without being obnoxious. I can differ without being difficult. And I can persuade without being pushy,

(4) Respond instead of react to others.

When I react to someone with whom I disagree, it is almost always negative. Without forethought, it is too easy to spout off and hurt another's feelings. Antagonize them. Or erect a barrier that can never be eradicated.

Finally, Joseph Aldrich in his book Lifestyle Evangelism reminds us of this important ingredient in evangelism. "Before you can share the Good News you must be the Good News."

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's tumor is almost completely gone & no more suspicious things in his scan.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is at home and still on constant oxygen.

Debbie McMurray has received good test results but is still under treatment.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister's home

Margaret Vanaman is being treated for melanoma. She has another procedure this week.

Lisa Trammel is home from the hospital and trying to regain some strength.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

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