

Evangelism

and the

Purpose & Plan of God

The Command to Evangelize

The Meaning of Evangelism

The Purpose of Evangelism

Evangelism and God's Sovereignty

The Work of Evangelism



God's

Purpose

in

Creation

God Created the Universe
For His Glory
and
For our Glory

The two uses of the term "glory" are not identical in meaning. The glory of God is eternal, inherent, and justly due to Him. The glory of the elect is everlasting, bestowed, and only ours by grace.

The point is that God created a world full of sin and suffering in order to save a people and bring them to glory.

Romans 8:19-20; 28-30

The Purpose of Evangelism

is to

proclaim the Gospel so that

people will be saved.

The Ministry
of the
Word

Elect are Effectually
Called by the
Word and Spirit —
2LCF 10:1

The phrase “ministry of the Word”
is used five times in 2LCF.

10:3 – Those incapable of being called.

10:4 – Non-elect called outwardly.

14:1 – Ordinary means of salvation.

26:5 – Christ calls elect to Himself by
the ministry of the Word.

26:10 - The work of pastors is the
ministry of the Word.

This phrase, “ministry of the Word”, is best understood as a reference to the preaching of the Word by Christ’s appointed men.

Thus, the *ordinary* means by which grace is brought to the elect is that of the ministry of the Word, i.e. the pulpit ministry of the church, or those sent by the church.

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

Romans 10:14-15

Summary

- 1) Evangelism means to proclaim the Gospel.
- 2) God's purpose in evangelism is to save people and bring them to glory.
- 3) Salvation requires special revelation of God found only in the Word of God.
- 4) God has decreed everything, in eternity, including who will be saved and the means by which they will be saved.

- 5) In His Providence, God uses the means He has “fore-ordained” to save people.
- 6) God effectually calls people to salvation by His Word, specifically the Ministry of the Word, and Spirit.
- 7) Christ communicates redemption to us by His ordinances – Word, Baptism, Lord’s Supper, Prayer.
- 8) The Spirit makes the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word an effectual means of salvation.

- 9) Saving Faith is ordinarily wrought by the Ministry of the Word.
- 10) Christ calls the elect to Himself by the Ministry of the Word.
- 11) The work of pastors is the Ministry of the Word.
- 12) The ordinary means by which people are saved is by the Ministry of the Word, by preaching.

The

Work

of

Evangelism

Primary Things

Commit yourself to membership in a local church. The Great Commission is given to the Church, not to “lone wolf” Christians or to parachurch organizations.

Primary Things

Believe that God still really saves people. This is God's purpose in creation and He will accomplish His purpose. His mission cannot and will not fail. That means that God will not fail to save people through the work of evangelism, when His ordained means of evangelism are employed.

Primary Things

Cultivate the right motive for doing the work of evangelism. Our motive must be for God to be glorified by the preaching of the Gospel, so that people will be saved and brought to glory. This is God's purpose in evangelism.

The Role of the Eldership

“Officers, especially pastors, *must* be doing the work of evangelists. Members who are not officers *may* do evangelistic work, but their obligation is *not* the same as their pastors. *Dr. J.M. Renihan, Ph.D.*

The Role of the Eldership

“Preach the Word, love the people, pray down heaven, disciple the [believers], promote family religion, live a godly life.” *Ligon Duncan*

Evangelistic Work of Elders

- 1) Preach the Word. Strive to find the Gospel in the text and preach Christ as He is found there.
- 2) Devote much time to prayer seeking for the success of the Gospel.
- 3) Administer the sacraments.
- 4) Make corporate prayer meetings a vital aspect of the life of the church and encourage fervent prayer for the work of evangelism.

Evangelistic Work of Elders

- 5) Teach the vital link between financial support and evangelism.
- 6) Look for ways to establish preaching venues in addition to the Lord's Day Service.
- 7) Look for ways to make the church known and invite people to services.
- 8) Develop robust understanding of the Gospel and teach it to the Church.

The Role of the Church Members

What should our people be taught to do according to the Confession? The answer is simple: live holy lives, pray for the success of the gospel, support their ministers, and as they have opportunity and ability seek the advance of the gospel. The best thing that they can do is invite their lost friends and relatives to worship, so that these folks may sit under the ministry of the word, which ‘ordinarily’ brings salvation.

The Role of the Church Members

“Delight in the Lord’s Day, gathering with the Saints to drink in the pure milk of the Word every Sunday morning and evening, as families; pray together as a congregation once every week; worship and catechize at home in families; love one another and all men.” *Ligon Duncan*

Evangelistic Work of Church

1) Pray for the success of the Gospel.

- participate in the corporate prayer meetings of the church
- seek the Holy Spirit to continually display spiritual gift of evangelism in our preachers.
- seek the salvation of our family members, friends, and coworkers.

Evangelistic Work of Church

- seek the salvation of people on our church prayer request list.
- ask the Lord to bring unbelievers to our worship services.
- ask the Lord to provide opportunities for our preachers to preach in settings outside the weekly worship service.

Evangelistic Work of Church

- 2) Keep the Lord's Day holy.
- 3) Tithe and give generously to support the work of the Gospel.
- 4) Live holy lives, and "do good to all."
- 5) Develop a robust understanding of the Gospel.

Evangelistic Work of Church

- 6) Get to know unbelievers, i.e., neighbors, coworkers, and fellow students.
- 7) Invite unsaved family members, neighbors, and friends to worship services.
- 8) Practice hospitality and make non-Christian friends.

Evangelistic Work of Church

- 9) Pray for God to arrange opportunities for you to comfortably and appropriately talk about your faith and give you the grace to do so.