

## The Task of Evangelism

- Methodology flows from Theology
  - History and Theory behind programs and methods. Without one or both, we simply participate in another busy activity. And I don't know about you, but I'm busy enough!
  - Our unity should be on the basis of truth not on evangelism as such.
  - What we win them with...
  - Regeneration/Conversion/Transformation
  - God's sovereignty and grace...our sin and need
- Witnessing
  - Distinction between the gospel and our testimony
    - Witnessing is more than giving our spiritual autobiography. The content of our message is primarily Christ and God, not our journey to faith.
    - 2 Cor 5:19
  - What does it mean for us to be Christ's witnesses?
    - Luke 24:48
    - Acts 1:8
  - Christ is who he says he is! The testimony is a means to an end.
- Distinguishing God's role from ours
  - We are planters and those who water
  - God saves people

While working through a biblical and historical study of evangelism, Martyn Lloyd-Jones provided these foundational principles for evangelism:

1. The supreme object of the work of evangelism is to glorify God, not to save souls.
2. The only power that can do this work is the Holy Spirit, not our own strength.
3. The one and only medium through which the Spirit works is the Scriptures; therefore, we "reason out of Scriptures" like Paul did.
4. These preceding principles give us the true motivation for evangelism---a zeal for God and a love for others.
5. There is a constant danger of heresy through a false zeal and employment of unscriptural methods.<sup>1</sup>

One more time...what you win them with, you'll need to keep them with, because what you've won them with, you've won them to!

- God-centered vs. Me-centered Gospel (Chart from Metzger, Tell the Truth pp. 36-37)

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<sup>1</sup> D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, The Presentation of the Gospel (London: IVP, 1949).

Chart 1. Some Contrasts in Gospel Content

Me-Centered	God-Centered
<b>View of God</b> Point of contact with non-Christians is love (God loves you). God's authority/ownership is blunted.	Point of contact with non-Christians is creation (God made you). God has ownership rights over your daily life and destiny.
Love is God's chief attribute.	Justice and love are equally important attributes of a holy God.
God is impotent before the sinner's will.	God is able to empower the sinner's will.
The persons of the Trinity have different goals when planning and accomplishing salvation than when applying it.	The persons of the Trinity work in harmony—salvation is designed, accomplished and applied to the same people.
<b>Conclusion</b> <i>God is a friend who will help you</i>	<i>God is a king who will save you</i>
<b>View of Humanity</b> Fallen yet has the ability (or potential) to choose the good and God.	Fallen and unable to come to God by own willpower.
Seeks truth but lacks correct facts.	Mind at enmity with God; none seek God.
Needs love, help, friendship and a new life.	Needs new nature (mind, heart, will), regeneration
Makes mistakes, is imperfect, needs forgiveness for specific sins.	Rebels against God, has a sinful nature, needs reconciliation.
Needs salvation from the consequences of sin—unhappiness, hell.	Needs salvation from guilt and the enslaving power of sin, hell.
<b>Conclusion</b> <i>Humanity is sick and ignorant.</i>	<i>Humanity is spiritually dead and lost.</i>

Me-Centered	God-Centered
<b>View of Christ</b> Savior from failures, sins and hell.	Savior from sins, sinful nature and hell
He exists for our benefit.	He exists to gather a kingdom and receive honor and glory.
His death was more important than his righteous, law-fulfilling life.	His death and his life of fulfilling our obligation to God are equally important.
Emphasizes his priestly role—Savior.	Emphasizes his priestly, kingly and prophetic roles.
<b>Conclusion</b> <i>An attitude of submission to Christ's lordship is optional for salvation.</i>	<i>An attitude of submission to Christ's lordship is necessary for salvation.</i>
<b>View of Response to Christ</b> Invitation waiting to be accepted now.	Loving command to be obeyed now.
Our choice is the basis for salvation. God responds to our decision.	God's choice is the basis for salvation. We respond to God's initiative.
We give mental assent to truths of gospel—decision.	We respond with our whole person (mind, heart, will)—conversion.
Appeal is made to the desires of the sinner.	Truths are driven home into the conscience of the sinner.
Saved by faith alone—repentance omitted for it is thought of as "works."	Saved by faith alone—saving faith always accompanied by repentance.
Assurance of salvation comes from a counselor using the promises of God and pronouncing the new believer saved.	Assurance of salvation comes from the Holy Spirit applying biblical promises to the conscience and effecting a changed life.
<b>Conclusion</b> <i>Sinners have the key in their hands.</i>	<i>God has the key in his hand</i>