



Biblical Basis for Evangelism

It is important not only that you know how to share your faith, but also that you know what the Bible says about evangelism and our part in it.

Answer the following questions before beginning the Bible Project:

1. What is your philosophy of evangelism?

2. Why is evangelism important?

Bible Project

Illustrate the following from scripture (Find 2-3 Bible passages to back up each of your points):

- What did Jesus teach about evangelism? What were His methods of evangelism?
(See these verses if you need some direction: Matt 9: 35-38, Matt 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:45-48, John 20:21, Acts 1:8, Matt 17:20-23)
- What did the apostle Paul teach about evangelism? What methods did he use?
(See Romans 10:14-15, Acts 13:4, 13:14, 14:1 if you need some direction)
- What did the apostle Peter teach about evangelism? What methods did he use?
(See these verses if you need some direction: 1 Peter 2:11-12, 3:15-16, Acts 3:1, 5:12, 10:23-4)
- What did Jesus say to his disciples regarding evangelism when He sent them out?
(Matt 10:5-42 and any other verses you can find!)

The Gospels give us several examples of how Jesus related his message to individuals. In John 3 he has a personal interview with Nicodemus. In John 4 he has an extended conversation with the woman at the well. In Mark 10:17ff he talks with the rich young ruler and in Luke 19 he spends time over a meal with Zaccheus. In John 9 Jesus makes a special effort to speak a second time with the man born blind. Even on the cross in his own hour of supreme need Jesus had a personal word for the one seeking salvation (Luke 23:39ff).

In addition to these examples, the Gospels are full of short conversations between Jesus and those he ministered to, which indicates how extensive his personal ministry was. In the history of the early church we read how the disciples carried on this style of evangelism as well.

Peter and John reach out to a lame man (Acts 3:1ff). Philip is led to leave the multitudes to share the Good News to one man on a lonely desert road (Acts 8:26ff) and Paul is personally addressed by Christ himself (Acts 9).

Michael Green comments about the early Christians, *"They went everywhere spreading the good news which had brought joy, release and a new life to themselves. This must often have been not formal preaching, but the informal chattering to friends and chance acquaintances.... They went everywhere gossiping the gospel; they did it naturally, enthusiastically, and with the conviction of those who are not paid to say that sort of thing. Consequently they were taken seriously, and the movement spread..."* (Evangelism in the Early Church, p.173)

Next Read and answer the questions for each scripture reference:

Required: Mark 10:17-23, Matt 9:9-13, John 4:7-42

Optional (if you have time you can look up some of these): Luke 19:1-10, Luke 9:37-45, John 3:1-21

- Was this a planned or spontaneous conversation?
- Was this conversation to an individual or to a group?
- How did the "evangelist" initiate a conversation/teaching?
- How did the evangelist react to question/needs of the other person?
- What can we discover about the content of the message from the recorded dialogue?
- What differences in evangelistic approach do you see in these several instances?

After you have finished the Bible Project, answer the following:

1. Did your views on evangelism change? If so, how?

2. Why is evangelism important to you now?

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV