

EVANGELISM FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

Introduction to Methods

“I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.” (1 Cor 9:22-23)

I. Evangelism From the Receiving End

A. Which is the Best?: Will Metzger’s Search in *Tell the Truth*

1. The Big Fun Tent Approach
2. No Bones Bible Study Approach
3. “Professional” Preaching Approach
4. Gospel-tract Barrage Approach
5. Conversation-Turning Approach

II. Does the Method Make a Difference?

A. What accounts for the various methods used by people today?

B. What does Theology Have to do with Evangelism?

- Can someone be motivated to evangelize, yet dishonor God through ignorance and manipulation?
- Should evangelism be limited to “friends” and “invitations to meetings”?
- Why are the converts of different Christian groups similar in personality type?
- Are you evangelizing only when you see conversions?
- What are the essential elements in an evangelistic message?
- Should we unite with Christian groups out of a desire to spread the Gospel regardless of a mutual commitment to Gospel doctrines?
- Why is there a reticence to examine the Biblical basis for methods of witnessing (especially if they are the methods we favor)?
- Why is there such disagreement, confusion, and vagueness among those who witness, even on the basic elements of the Gospel?

C. Evaluating the Methods Out There

1. “I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it.” – D. L. Moody
2. “When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, ‘Who then can be saved?’²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” (Matt 19:25-26)

*“All my questions could be boiled down to one: what was the way to witness that would be shaped by a high view of a Creator-Redeemer God who does not merely make salvation available but actually empowers a person to respond by repenting and receiving?” - Will Metzger, *Tell the Truth*, 18.*

III. Our Goal: "Purposeful Friendship Evangelism"

- A. Extremes to avoid: Pigeon-Holing vs. Endless Niceness
- B. Question: How does someone from a big God, huge grace, deep truth, strong love, whole-counsel-of-God-exalting perspective share the saving message of Christ?

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'" (Matt 9:36-38)

