

EVANGELISM FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

God-Centered Evangelism

"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. The Evangelism Go-To Verse

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

- A. God's love is SOVEREIGN – "It was not because you were more in number than any other people... *but it is because the Lord loves you.*" (Deut 7:7-8)
- B. God's love is ETERNAL – "He chose us in [Christ] *before the foundation of the world.*" (Eph 1:4)
- C. God's love is ALMIGHTY – "...*love is as strong as death, jealousy as fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD.*" (Song of Sol 8:6)

"[God's love] has at its heart an almighty purpose to bless which cannot be thwarted." - J.I. Packer
- D. God's love is UNCHANGEABLE – "For I, the LORD, *do not change.*.." (Mal 3:6)
- E. God's love is SPIRITUALLY REVEALED – "...hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been *poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit* who has been given to us." (Rom 5:5)

II. God-Centered Evangelism vs. Me-Centered Evangelism

Q. What's wrong with this Gospel presentation?

Meet My Friend

He is faithful. - *"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up" (Psalm 27:10).*

He is the way to God the Father. - *"Jesus said ... I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me" (John 14:6).*

He already loves you. - *"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*

He wants to give you eternal life. - *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).*

He is the only one who can give you eternal life. - *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).*

He won't refuse anyone. - *"Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).*

Now that you have met my Friend, don't you feel that you want to commit your life for time and for eternity into His hands? Right now you can take the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior and Friend.

Me-Centered	God-Centered
VIEW OF GOD 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 life/destiny.
Love is God's chief attribute.	Justice and love are equally important attributes of 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/accomplishing salvation than when applying it.	The persons of the Trinity work in harmony—salvation is designed, accomplished and applied to the same people.
Conclusion - <i>God is a friend who will help you.</i>	<i>God is a king who will save you.</i>
VIEW OF HUMANITY Fallen yet has the ability (or potential) to choose the good/God	Fallen and unable to come to God by own will power.
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 consequences of sin—unhappiness/hell	Needs salvation from guilt and enslaving power of sin, hell.
Conclusion - <i>Humanity is sick and ignorant.</i>	<i>Humanity is spiritually dead and lost.</i>

Me-Centered	God-Centered
VIEW OF CHRIST 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 more important than his righteous, law-keeping life	His death and life both key to fulfilling our obligation to God
Emphasizes his priestly role—Savior.	Emphasizes his priestly, kingly and prophetic roles.
Conclusion – <i>Submission to Christ's lordship is optional</i>	<i>Submission to Christ's lordship is necessary for salvation</i>
VIEW OF RESPONSE TO CHRIST 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 as a “work”.	Saved by faith alone—saving faith always with repentance.
Assurance of salvation comes from a counselor using the promises of God and pronouncing the new believer saved	Assurance of salvation comes from Holy Spirit applying Biblical promises to the conscience, effecting a changed life.
Conclusion - <i>Sinners have the key in their hands.</i>	<i>God has the key in his hand.</i>

