



WEEK 4

DIGGING DEEPER

Sharing the Good News

What is Evangelism anyways?

When you hear the word “evangelism”, what comes to mind? For some, this word brings up thoughts of confident speakers, bold messages, and has a positive connotation. For some, this word brings up negative feelings, is intimidating, or can just feel “wrong”. Whether we like to believe it or not, there are cultural implications to this word that stir up different emotions.

To get to the heart of what evangelism means, let’s start with the definition. From the Greek word εὐαγγελίζω, “to evangelize” means “to bring or announce glad tidings”. Biblically, we see this word used in the Old Testament when sharing any good news. In the New Testament, this word is used when sharing the Gospel message: sharing “of the glad tidings of the coming kingdom of God, and of the salvation to be obtained in it through Christ, and of what relates to this salvation.” This Greek word is the root for the noun used to describe those who preach the gospel. The Greek word εὐαγγελιστής is translated to “evangelist”. When we break these words down, we can see that any additions to what it means to be an evangelist, or to evangelize, are brought on by our cultural lenses.

To be clear, preaching the gospel goes further than sharing our personal witness. This article from Ligonier Ministries, titled

“What is Evangelism” explains this in a clear and succinct way:

“Now that we have defined the Gospel, we will begin looking at what it means to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Evangelism is the term we use to refer to the preaching of the Gospel. It comes from the same Greek word for gospel (euangelion) and means, literally, “gospeling.” When we evangelize we are “gospeling” – we are spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism is one way in which we can fulfill Christ’s call to be His witnesses ([Acts 1:8](#)). In biblical categories, witnessing involves making visible what is otherwise invisible. The reality to which we bear witness is the invisible kingdom of God, and in witnessing we strive to make the Lord’s reign visibly manifest. Among the many ways we can bear witness to Jesus is through loving our fellow believers. We reveal to the world that we belong to our Savior when we love other Christians ([John 13:34–35](#)). Celebrating the Lord’s Supper proclaims visibly the Lord’s death until He comes again ([1 Cor. 11:26](#)). In preaching the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in our evangelism, we are also helping to make visible the invisible reality of Christ.

The distinction between witnessing and evangelism is important because it is easy to think we are evangelizing when all we are doing is bearing witness to the Savior. Giving one’s testimony is a good thing, but it is not evangelism. Testifying to the work of God in our lives bears witness to what Christ has

righteous life manifests the work of the Holy Spirit, but we have not evangelized our neighbor if we have never shared the Gospel with him. No one is converted by our kindness or honesty; they are brought into the kingdom of heaven only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 16:25–34).

God has created us with different personalities and gifts, and some of us are more adept at the verbal proclamation of the Gospel than others. Nevertheless, declaring the message of salvation through Christ is the responsibility of us all, and we must seek opportunities to preach the Gospel. Only if we confess Him before men will He confess us before the Father ([Matt. 10:32–33](#))."
Ligonier Ministries: "What Is Evangelism?"
April 22, 2008

Why is this important?

Matthew 28:18-20 says, "And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Our commission is to go out and share the gospel message, to evangelize. The following statistics, gathered from the Kitsap Church Metrics 2020 Church Survey, indicates how great of a need that we have in Kitsap County:

"This weekend in Kitsap County 28,083 people (10% of Kitsap's population) will gather with a local church. That's

almost 4-times lower than the national average of 38% (Barna Group, 2017).

More noticeable still, 243,390 people will be somewhere else this weekend. If every person in Kitsap County wanted to attend a church service this weekend, all 187 churches would need to hold 9 gatherings each in order to serve them."

As we take seriously the Great Commission from Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20, pause to think about your own unique mission-field that God has called you to. Who are the people that you know who might not know the hope found in Jesus? What barriers do you have (mental, emotional, physical, etc.) that are preventing you from being a "bringer of glad tidings"? Let the weight of the Scriptures weigh on you, the movement of the Holy Spirit prompt you, the strength of the Lord uphold you, and the promise of Jesus sustain you and bring you hope.

Resources

Ligonier Ministries: "What is Evangelism?"

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/what-evangelism#:~:text=Evangelism%20is%20the%20term%20we,t he%20Gospel%20of%20Jesus%20Christ.>

Kitsap Church Metrics: 2020 Church Survey Report

<https://www.kitsapchurchmetrics.org/>