

What is Evangelism and Why Must We Evangelize?

Objectives

To introduce the concept of evangelism by explaining what it means and its necessity in the life of a Christian

References

1. Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern USA, Evangelism Program – www.suscopts.org
2. “An Introduction into the Theology of Mission” by H.G. Bishop Antonius Marcos

Scriptural Verse

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature’.”(Mark 16:15)

Lesson Outline

I. Definition

Evangelism is the declaration of the good news of Jesus Christ to all nations.

II. Why do we need to Evangelize?

1. The Lord commanded that we spread the good news to all the people of the world (Matthew 28:19-20).
2. Those who don't believe will receive eternal condemnation (Mark 16:15-16). Therefore, witnessing is a very serious matter, it results in life or death of others.
3. Witnessing is a responsibility and stewardship that we are given. We will be held accountable of this stewardship just like anything else (1 Corinthians 9:16-17).
4. The word of God in most instances is spread from one person to another (Romans 10:13-14).
5. The Christian is equipped with grace that makes him ideal for spreading the good news. The Lord characterized us as:
 - a. **Yeast** – which makes the dough rise – we are able to bring about edification of others through the word of the Gospel (Luke 13:20-21).
 - b. **Salt** – that flavors and preserves – we are able to help bring a sense of fulfillment in people's empty lives by telling them about Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:13).
 - c. **Light** – the light expels darkness – we are able to let the Gospel shine on others so that they may see their sins and repent (Matthew 5:14-16)
 - i. In essence, accepting Christ brings about repentance, edification and fulfillment in one's life.
 - ii. “Do not say you are unable to influence others for as long as you are a Christian, you are able to influence others because this is the essence of Christianity.” St. John Chrysostom.
6. The message we are sharing is a happy and joyful message. In the Lord Jesus, we receive love, forgiveness of sins, and fulfillment for our empty lives (Ephesians 2:4-7).
7. This is the ultimate purpose of our lives here on earth – to witness and glorify God's name.
 - a. “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work” (John 4:34). The Lord said these words when He had ministered to the Samaritan woman. The Lord was fulfilling His mission on earth to spread the news of the Kingdom of God, which is our mission too.

III Prerequisites to Evangelism

1. We must have love and compassion for others in order to care for their salvation, just as the Lord had compassion on others (Matthew 14:14).
 - a. We must ask the Lord to give us that love through the work of the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 4:9).
2. A life of prayer – accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ requires the work of grace in the evangelist’s life as well as the recipient’s life, which the Lord will bestow upon us when we ask through prayer.
3. A zeal and love for God – only after we have tasted and experienced the goodness of God in our lives can we enthusiastically share the good news with others.

Conclusion

Evangelism or sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the responsibility of every Christian. We are commanded by the Lord to do this work but it must be done with love, compassion and prayer. We must take this duty very seriously as those who do not come to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ will experience eternal condemnation.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. Now that we know about the importance of evangelism, what can we start doing to prepare us for this work?
2. What are some obstacles that we are experiencing to sharing the Gospel?