

GRBC Core Seminar

Evangelism and the Gospel Message

Week 1

Introduction & Cell 1 – God, The Loving Ruler and Creator

Introduction

Two Ways To Live Purpose: To communicate the gospel concisely and accurately for the glory of God and the conversion of souls

A. *What is evangelism?*

J.I. Packer writes that evangelism is “To present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to sinful people, in order that they may come to put their trust in God through Him, to receive Him as their Savior, and serve Him as their King in the fellowship of His Church.” *Evangelism and Sovereignty of God.*

Revelations 4:11 says, “*you are worthy our Lord and God to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things. And by your will they were created and have their being.*”

Romans 3:10-12 reads- “*There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.*”

1 Peter 3:18 “*Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.*”

B. *Who should evangelize?*

As Christians, we all have been given the task to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those around us and to the nations. Do we just heap the responsibility on the “professionals”? No! This grand task is our task!

At the end of Christ’s earthly ministry in Matthew 18:18-20 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 will be with you always, to the very end of the age.*”

C. *What is successful evangelism?*

For some evangelism is only successful if you convert the person but rest assured, that is not biblical. Would we say Jesus is an evangelistic failure, since not all of his listeners came to faith? Of course not. Sharing the message with the aim to conversion is successful evangelism. Sharing, the mere act of telling someone the good news of Jesus Christ is faithful and successful evangelism. Only God performs the miraculous work of bringing the dead to life. We’re called, we’re commanded to share to plant the seed, and leave the growth to God. So we might say successful evangelism begins with information, and ends with an invitation.

D. *Basic principles to guide our evangelism*

Here are some basic principles that should guide our evangelism?

1. Understand that evangelism is a *discipline*. Many Christians need to get it out of our minds that it’s optional. We’re given the privileged command of sharing the good news. Sometimes God puts someone before us and we’re able to “give the reason for the hope that we have.” More often than not we must discipline ourselves to be proactive, looking for opportunities. Evangelism is a skill that is continually sharpened with use. We need discipline.
2. *Pray*. How many of you right now are regularly praying for those who do not know Christ? Prayer is essential. It is a God-ordained means of grace. Be praying for at least one person regularly – God will provide opportunities. Ask friends how to pray for them. Many non-Christian friends will appreciate it, particularly during difficult struggles.

3. *Live faithfully.* We ought to speak God's word as one truly living God's word. We are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. (2 Cor. 2:15)

Make most of every opportunity. Col. 4:5-6, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity." Utilize the friendships you have with non-Christians. Already established line of communication – use those relationships to get to heart issues. Ask thoughtful questions, listen and put forth the truth! .

E. Do you evangelize?

1. Yes?
No? Why not?

Cell 1 – God, The Loving Ruler and Creator of the World

Rev. 4:11 - God is the author, and therefore has all authority. Why would we begin here here?

We begin with God. To talk about sin, we must know whom we have sinned against. To talk about salvation in Christ, we want them to know who provided the way to be saved. And to talk about heaven, we need to tell people who created heaven and point out whom heaven's inhabitants worship.

- 1) God created everything.
- Genesis 1:1
- Psalm 33:6, 9
- Psalm 90:2
- John 1:3
- Colossians 1:16

- 2) Because God created everything, He is the ruler of everything.
- Job 12:10
- Acts 17:25, 28

- 3) God created man, and His purpose for humanity was to rule the world under His guidance and protection.
- Genesis 2:7
- Genesis 1:28

Assignment

Memorize Rev. 4:11

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Recommended Reading

Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God by J.I. Packer

Speaking of Jesus by Mack Stiles

To Tell the Truth by Will Metzger