

Evangelize the Lost

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"
— Romans 10:14-15

If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.
— Charles Spurgeon

Doctrine

Evangelism should be as natural to the Christian as breathing. Some individuals are specially gifted for sharing the gospel with strangers. However, this does not exempt all believers from making the most of every opportunity to share their faith. The God of all creation is also the God of all time. He holds our days and directs our paths. God's sovereignty over evangelism should make us prayerful, patient, and bold. True evangelism is not motivated by guilt, but glory.

Philosophy

God's power and authority over evangelism should make us prayerful. As previously stated in the section on prayer... if God is not sovereign over all He creates, then what assurance do we have that He will hear our prayers at all (let alone do anything about them)? Thankfully, He knows all things, controls all things, and rules over all things... including salvation. No one enters the Kingdom by accident. He answers prayer in alignment with His perfect wisdom, power, and authority. Evangelism should drive us to our knees.

An understanding of God's sovereignty also provides patience, confidence, and perspective. According to Acts 19:8-9, Paul withdrew from a crowd he had been reasoning with for three months when they "became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation." As much as he wanted to see all men saved, he realized that salvation belongs to the Lord. This understanding gave him the patience to reason with the crowd, the confidence to walk away when appropriate, and the perspective to recognize that it was not his responsibility to take more upon himself than what God had called him to do.

Finally, the power and privilege of evangelism should embolden us to unashamedly proclaim the gospel of life to a dying world whenever possible. Some are especially gifted in the area of evangelism and engaging unbelievers in ways that will not shame the name of Christ. Others, while well intentioned, are not as gifted. However, we are all called to be ready at all times to defend our faith, declare the truth of Scripture, and testify to the glories of Christ. In so much as we are capable, it is our responsibility under the sovereignty of God to reach the lost. A time is coming when evangelism will be a thing of the past. Until then, let's faithfully make the most of every opportunity God has provided.