

We Are an Evangelism Community

Church, A Community on Purpose – Part 4

August 29, 2021

Church is God's means of evangelism

What is evangelism?

Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ (aka the Gospel) with people

Acts 1:7-8 "He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

What are we witnesses to?

Jesus's grace and saving power in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Acts 2:42-47 "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Evangelism is a product of Christ-centered fellowship

Other characteristics of true fellowship:

- Worshipping and praising Jesus together
- Devotion to Biblical truth
- Prayer
- Meeting each other's needs and the needs of the community
- Enjoying meals together

Because of sin, evangelism and fellowship are distorted

Acts 4:34-35 "There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need."

Acts 5:1-2 "But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet."

Examples of sins that impact evangelism and fellowship:

- Selfishness
- Greed
- Pride
- Lying

Fear of God turns our focus from ourselves to Him

Acts 5:5 - When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

Acts 5:10 - And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

*Job 42:1-6 "Then Job answered the Lord and said:
I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.
'Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you make it known to me.'
I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes."*

Philippians 2:6-11 "... though [Jesus] was in the form of God, [he] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at

the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Practical Steps

1. Get involved in true fellowship
2. Rely on the Holy Spirit and begin taking steps of faith
 - a. Who are your coworkers and neighbors?
 - b. How can you pray for them?
 - c. When can you ask them about their story?