

# The Gospel and Personal Evangelism - Getting Practical

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# Where We Are

- Week 1 – Intro/Why We Don't Evangelize/Why We Should Evangelize
- Week 2 – Explaining the Gospel/Who Should Evangelize?/How?
- Week 3 – What Evangelism Is Not/What Is the Role of Apologetics?/Bible Passages that Are Helpful to Walk Through/Let's Get Practical

# What Isn't Evangelism?

- Imposition
  - We are not trying to convince people of our personal beliefs, but rather declaring to them the truth
  - 1 Cor 3:5-7
- Testimony
  - Often times does not include clear, explicit explanation of the gospel
  - “It’s the gospel that turns sharing a testimony into evangelism”

# What Isn't Evangelism?

- Social Action and Political Involvement
  - While Christians are called to mercy ministries, and they help commend the gospel, they share it with no one
  - To be *evangelism*, the gospel must be clearly communicated, either in written or oral form
- The Results of Evangelism
  - Evangelism must not be confused with its fruit
  - We cannot manipulate people into salvation – God is the one who saves!

# What Isn't Evangelism? - Apologetics

- Defending the faith is different than explaining the gospel
- Benefits:
  - May lead to evangelism
  - May answer questions that are a stumbling block for unbelievers (but even so, the gospel will always be folly to those who are perishing)
- Dangers:
  - Distracting from the main message
  - Might unwittingly confirm someone in their unbelief by your inability to answer questions that are impossible to answer anyway

# Gospel Outlines

- Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration
- Read through John or Mark
- Tell stories in the gospels

# Gospel Outlines

“Romans Road” (3:23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... (6:23)  
...For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord... (5:8) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.... (10:9-10) ...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved... (10:13)  
...For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ... (5:1)...Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... (8:1) ...There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...(8:38-39)...For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# My Experience with CU Outreach

- Teams of CU students going to OSU, Wright State, Central State, and Sinclair
- Go in teams of two, try to meet with people week to week
- Very diverse religious landscape
- People are open to the gospel
- Connecting with local ministries (churches, CRU, etc)
- It's hard to evangelize in your "hometown"

# Advice for Talking to People

- Generally people are friendly and enjoying to others
- If people are busy and don't want to talk, let them be
- Be clear about your intentions, but also show interest in the person
- People love to talk about themselves
- Ask good questions to get to know where they are coming from
- If you drift into apologetics, make sure you explain the gospel clearly
- Regardless of how the conversation goes, ask if you can pray for them before you leave

# Closing Thoughts

- Faithfulness, not results
- “We do not fail in our evangelism if we faithfully tell the gospel to someone who is not subsequently converted; we fail only if we do not faithfully tell the gospel at all.”
- We are never going to be perfect at sharing the gospel: “I like how I am doing evangelism better than you are not doing it.”
- Do we talk about the gospel more than we talk about our favorite sports team?
- God has saved us! Praise the Lord! May he save others and add them to Arbor soon!