

## *Let's Consider . . .*



### **GO YE... WHO ME?**

#### WHOSE JOB IS EVANGELISM?

Obvious by their position, the job of evangelism falls to the church leaders, pastors, elders and bible class teachers, but does that absolve us from the responsibility of teaching? Evangelism is a cooperative effort of the Holy Spirit and those who follow Christ.

#### WHAT

Simply put, the plan of salvation and how to get it.

#### WHERE

Matthew 28:19 tells the disciples to go into the world to spread the gospel. While many have the ability to travel to foreign lands to spread the gospel, many of us have family, work and social commitments that prevent us from such travel; nevertheless we can work where we are. Take advantage of the opportunities of place and time given to you right where you are to teach.

#### WHEN

When we purchase a new car, it is our nature to want to tell everybody to come see it and show it off. So it should be when we are experiencing the abundant blessings of God, to share all the good that is coming our way by virtue of being Christians.

Conversely, there are just times when we are just down for whatever reason. If we take the opportunity during these times to teach, we can become rejuvenated by the reception of someone who is willing to learn about Jesus. It has been said that there is no better exercise than bending down to lift someone up.

#### WHY

As followers of Jesus we are to be effective workers.

[John 15:4-6 "Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire and they are burned."]

#### HOW

To be effective, one must maintain a strong relationship to God so you can demonstrate and reflect what you are teaching. Would you seek medical advice from your auto mechanic? When teaching others, they must be able to see the reflection of God in you. Even the simple effort of maintaining integrity in the workplace can testify to your belief.

But evangelism is more than being a silent witness. We must be actively engaged in teaching opportunities that present the plan of salvation and what must be done to secure it.

The manner we use to teach others should be humble in nature and not cause offense. Nothing can be accomplished if the manner in which the word is taught is not receptive to the listener.

After much prayer. [John 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you."]

## BUT AT WHAT COST

One thing is sure about evangelism – bring up the topic of religion and both the believer and non-believer become uncomfortable. The natural response is one of fear and worry that may come from ridicule or rejection.

True commitment becomes evident when it starts to cost something, John 15:18-25. You may be hated because of your commitment to teaching, or you may be misunderstood and even chided as one of those right wing religious nuts who goes overboard on religion. One's faith may cost a career, advancement or even ostracism by co-workers and family but the reward far out weighs the cost.

To recap the effort of an evangelizer –

identify with Christ,  
proclaim the gospel,  
appeal for a decision (they will either accept or reject)  
then nurture and train the new believer

...then start all over again.

I am only one,  
But still I am one,  
I cannot do everything,  
But still I can do something;  
And because I cannot do everything,  
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.  
~Edward Everett Hale's pledge  
To the Lend-a-Hand Society~

Do all the good you can,  
by all the means you can,  
in all the ways you can,  
in all the places you can,  
at all the times you can,  
to all the people you can,  
as long as ever you can.  
~John Wesley~

Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together,  
running over, they will pour into your lap. For whatever measure you deal out to  
others, it will be dealt to you in return.  
~Luke 6:38 NIV~

What holds you back from teaching others?

How can you change or eliminate what holds you back?

Who can be your support in this effort?

(There is a reason another religion sends their people in pairs.  
Try evangelizing with a buddy until you are comfortable)