

Evangelism

sharing the good news of Jesus Christ

by Ross Callaghan
<http://rosscallaghan.yolasite.com>

If you are a Christian someone shared the good news of Jesus Christ with you. Aren't you glad?

Now God calls you (and all other Christians) to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. We are responsible for reaching our generation for Christ (as has every other generation before us). This is our time! And our nation sorely needs to know God!



What is the good news of Jesus Christ?

The word for good news is *euangelion* (*eu* good, *angelon* message) and it is translated as the word **gospel**. When we share the gospel what do we say? What is the good news?

Let's try to say it using words that people who haven't heard the good news will understand. (ie. try to drop the jargon!).

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- God created the world, including people.- God created us because He loves us and wants to have a relationship with us.- God is totally good.- We are not good.- This means we can't easily know God or have a relationship with Him. There's always a barrier between God and us.- People try all sorts of ways to get to know God. But, no matter how hard we try, there always seems to be a barrier between God and us.- 2000 years ago God sent Jesus to remove the barrier between God and us.- Jesus, God's Son, took upon Himself all that was evil in the world and died on the Cross.- He came alive from the dead showing that he was indeed God's Son, and proving that He was the only way we could get to know God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We need to accept this and recognise Jesus as our friend, helper and guide.- When we do this God accepts us into His family and we can start having a relationship with Him. The barrier is broken down!- When we accept this we become Christians. God comes and lives in us by His Spirit and we can start having a deep spiritual relationship with Him.- Relationship with God is great! We get to know and love Him and become better people as He does wonderful things in our lives.- God has a plan for our lives. As we fulfill this plan we know deep satisfaction and meaning in our lives.- Along with other Christians we are responsible for sharing God's love and making a positive difference in our world.- When we die our spiritual relationship with God continues. It's heaven!
--	---

Why don't you try to this for yourself? Try to clearly explain the Gospel in words that anyone will be able to understand. Then go and share it with someone else!

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:16,17

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:8-10



The Great Commission

God calls us to share the Gospel with people in our generation.

Then Jesus came to them and 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 am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:16-20.

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. Mark 16:15-20.

What are we to do?

- Go into all the world.
- Preach the gospel to everyone.
- Make disciples of all nations. (Quite a task!)
- Baptise the new disciples in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- Teach them to obey God.

What support will we get?

- Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth.
- He will be with us always, even to the end of the age.

What can we expect to happen?

- Jesus will be with us.
- God will confirm His Word.
- Miraculous things will happen.

The disciples went out shared the gospel with their generation. *And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:47*

Down through history the gospel has been shared and countless people won for Christ. God has continued to work in His world bringing people into a saving relationship with Himself.

This has happened for you! Now it is your time to share the gospel with others.



Evangelism is all about love

Evangelism is all about love. The perfect love that God has shown to us in Christ.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:16-18



And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 1 John 4:14-16

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11,12

God loves us. God places His love in our hearts. We love Him. We love those who God loves (everyone!). Out of love for God and others we share the good news with them. We can't help it!

When your heart is filled with love for God you can't help but share it with others: in words and in actions.

All Christians are called to evangelism

Evangelism isn't an exclusive job for 'evangelists'. The great commission is for all Christians to *Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.*

It's more than a commandment, though. Evangelism is an honor, a joy, and a pleasure! How can we remain silent about God's love? Because we know His love, we want everybody to know it too. It's all about love! The same love that Jesus expressed for us on the Cross is the same love that flows through you and me when we share the Gospel with others.

We can't change the hearts of people. God promises to do that:

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26

What we can do is share what God has done for us, and what He can do for them. We're not called to argue or debate anyone into heaven. (That doesn't work!). We're merely called to share!

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

As in the courtroom, we're called to be a witness for the Gospel, not the lawyer, judge or jury..... Leave that up to God!

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8



All around us people are hurting. The world is searching for answers and people are not finding them! Nothing on this earth can fill the void that only God can satisfy.

The answer is Jesus! Jesus is the key to everything! Life is found in Him.

Nobody needs to face their future alone or with uncertainty.

Jesus is *the way, the truth and the life!* John 14:6

Life, love, peace, purpose, meaning, trials, fears, uncertainty, joy, hope, death.....
Everything is wrapped up in Jesus Christ. That's how people can 'live happily ever after'!

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. John 15:12-14

Evangelism is our greatest responsibility, our greatest challenge, our greatest joy, our greatest love.



Discussion questions

Why do so many Christians find it hard to share their faith with those who are outside of Christ?

How do non-Christians react to you when you try to share the Gospel with them? Why is this?

What evangelism approaches are relevant for the people in your community?

What can you do to be more effective in:

- pre-evangelism (building relationships with non-Christians)?
- sharing the Gospel?
- leading others to Christ?
- Following up new Christians so that they continue to live for Jesus?

Many say that the way to win others for Christ is to live a good Christian life so they will want what we have. Does this approach work? Can you effectively evangelize without actually sharing the Gospel with others?

Analyze all of the components in the Great Commission. Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-20.
What are we doing well? What are we doing poorly? How can we better fulfill the Great Commission?

Does your heart bleed for those round you who are lost apart from Christ? How does this relate to Jesus' requirement to *love your neighbour as yourself?*