

**Xenos Christian Fellowship  
Christian Principles Unit 4  
Challenges and Opportunities of Spiritual Growth**

**Week 8: Evangelism, Part 1**

**Theology of missions & evangelism**

**Evangelism and missions as the purpose of the church**

**1 Tim. 2: 3** This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.;

**2 Pet. 3: 9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

**Matt. 28:18-20** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Acts 1:8** but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

**Consider other "purposes" of the church.**

**Three participants in evangelism: God, the evangelist, and the hearer**

**God's part in evangelism:**

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**1 John 2:2** He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

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**John 16: 8-10** "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; (10) and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

**John 12: 32** "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

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**Col. 4: 2-6 [3-6\*\*]** Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; (3) praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; (4) in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. (5) Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. (6) Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.

- **Mk. 13: 11** "And when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.

**1 Cor. 2: 2-4** For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. (3) And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. (4) And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

### **Our Part in evangelism:**

**Rom. 10:14** How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

**2 Cor. 5: 18-20** Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, (19) namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

### **Hearer's Part in evangelism:**

**Mt. 23: 37** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

**Luke 8:5-15** --Parable of Soils

**John 7:17** "If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself."

### **Harvest vs. Search theology**

- **Search theology**

**Definition:** Searches for the receptive people through the faithful proclamation of the Gospel, leaving results between God and the hearer.

**Search theology is flawed because:**

- **Harvest theology**

**Definition:** Finding and winning receptive people (harvesting) through faithful proclamation of an understandable Gospel, keeping an eye on results to determine effectiveness and future methods.

**Harvest theology is biblical because:**

**Harvest theologians beware:**

**1 Cor. 3:5-7** What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. (6) I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. (7) So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

**What happens if the church loses an evangelism focus?**

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

**Eph. 2: 12** remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

**Key ideological shifts in today's culture.**

How is it that vital evangelistic movements die?

2 Cor. 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

<b>The way it was</b>	<b>The way it is</b>
<p><b>1. Spiritual background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominal Christian experience</li> <li>Information such as "The Four Spiritual Laws" provided compelling reason to receive Christ. While many never heard the gospel, people did believe the basic concepts of a just and loving God, "true moral guilt," and forgiveness. A clear presentation of the Gospel put these concepts together in a way that often made sense to this critic.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1. Spiritual background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little significant exposure to the church</li> <li>Many people mix and blend different faiths to arrive at what they believe (EG. New Age). It is common to hold that all faiths are equally true. Note: unfortunately, even many with an evangelical church background have bought into this.</li> <li>Today's perspective is that we are not able to call things morally right and wrong (it is not "politically correct"). People today will say that assigning true moral guilt to someone or some situation is "intolerant;" rather, we should be open to everything. Therefore the Gospel message doesn't fit with this perspective.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. What the critics thought</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically minded skeptics appealed to reason and evidence (especially science)</li> <li>Christians would defend their faith (apologetics) using classical arguments (design of the universe, design of man, and the study of 'how we know what we know') or evidence (historical evidence for the resurrection, for the reliability of the Bible, etc.). The rational critic would often find these types of arguments persuasive.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2. What the critics think</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically minded skeptics find the claims and content of Christianity dogmatic and offensive. Christianity cannot possibly be universally true because it excludes other religious voices and traditions.</li> <li>"Hmmm, that's great for you, but you can't impose your truth on me." Truth and reason bounce off today's student.</li> </ul>

The most significant aspect of the "spirit of the age" today has to do with truth. Consider these 2 questions as you watch the tape and we will discuss them.

**What are the 2 views of "truth?"**

**What are the 2 views of "tolerance?"** (film clip of the Indian & missionary)

**Two views of truth:** biblical versus postmodern. The contrasts between these two views of truth include the following:

- It is objective, not merely subjective (**Rom. 3:4**).
- It is absolute, not relative (**Acts 4:12; Jn. 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5,6**).
- It is antithetical, not synthetic (**Matt. 12:30; Ex. 20:1-6**).
- Truth is a bestowal of God's grace, not my propaganda (**Rom. 1:16**).

**Two definitions of "tolerance"**

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**What do you think about the film clip of the Indian and the missionary?**

**Madonna Video**

**Impact of postmodernism on relationships**

**Memory Verses**

**2 Cor. 5:18-20\*** - We are ambassadors for Christ.

**Col. 4:3-6\*\*** - Pray for open doors for the Gospel.

**Assignment**

**Talk to a non-Christian and record their answers to the following questions:**

- Do all religions basically teach the same thing? Why do you think that?
- What does it mean to be a tolerant person?

**Write at least one paragraph response to each of these common objections to Christianity:**

1. "Why should I regard the Bible as God's Word? What about all of the other scriptures?"
2. "How can your religion consign people to hell if they have never even heard about Christ?" **Hint:** There are really two distinct issues in this objection--God's judgment and whether he judges all people who didn't have access to the Bible.

**Quiz next week!**