

Sunday School Lesson for the Months of May & June, 2024

Methods of Evangelism in the Christian Church

(Mark 1:17, Acts 1:8)

(Sundays, May 5 & 12, 2024)

Evangelism is believer's presenting the gospel to unbelievers and asking them to repent of their sins and receive Christ as Lord and Savior. It is saved sinners introducing lost sinners to the Savior. As someone has put it: it is one hungry person telling another where to find bread. Evangelism is witnessing not just belief about witnessing. We are not evangelistic just because we believe the gospel – we are evangelistic when we share the gospel.

Evangelism is the heartbeat of the church! Worship and evangelism are our reason for gathering, and evangelism and ministry are our reason for going out. Is the importance of evangelism reflected in your Christian life-style? If not, why not? How can we lead our churches to grow if we do not evangelize the lost? We cannot!!

Realizing that laymen are the most strategic and the most unused key to the evangelization of the world. We should endeavor to build a ministry which will motivate, recruit, and train men, women, boys, and girls, to do the job of evangelism and then keep them doing it. This, of course is not an easy task, but we need an ongoing ministry of evangelism year after year in our church.

In this lesson, let's look at some of the biblical principles through which this may take place.

(Sundays, May 19 & 26, 2024)

I. First Biblical Principle: Every Christian is a Witness!

A. Christ's First Instructions

Christ's first instructions to His new followers in the first chapter of Mark was, ***"come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men."*** His last instructions on this earth to His disciples were, ***"but ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in***

Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Christ thus began and ended His Ministry with the command to be witnesses and fishers of men! His teachings are summed up in the great commission, where Jesus commands His followers to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. The first and most obvious principle, then, is that the church is a body under orders by Christ to share the gospel with the whole world. But the question then arises, how is this to be done and by whom?

B. Evangelism as a way of life

Not only did all the early Christians witness, but they witnessed daily to everyone they met. Every Christian assumed responsibility for sharing the gospel in the natural context of daily life. Christ at the well (John 4); Phillip with Nathaniel (John 1); Peter at the temple gate (Acts 3); and Paul in the Philippian jail (Acts 16:22-34) are clear examples of how Christ and early believers used their relationships as bridges through which to share the gospel.

In our churches, we must equip our lay people to make witnessing a way of every day living. Witnessing should be a way of life of sharing Christ with those we meet daily. Christians should be trained to articulate their faith with all people they encounter.

(Sundays, June 2 & 9, 2024)

II. Second Biblical Principle: Pastors must equip lay people of the Church!

A. Lay People need to be trained

It is the task of Ministers to train the lay people of the church to evangelize. Most of the members of our churches are AWOL (absent without official leave) when it comes to witnessing. Members of the church must be taught that the basic purpose of their ministry is to witness.

B. Purpose of Ministers

In the fourth chapter of Ephesians, we read that Christ has given to the Church ***“some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some***

pastors, and some teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Christ has given Pastors and Teachers to the Church, “for the equipping of the saints unto the work of ministry, unto the up building of the body of Christ.”

As Pastors, we have the responsibility of being the shepherd of the Church of God. The shepherd feeds and guides the sheep. The Pastor is the teacher of the church. His function is to instruct believers in the truth of God and His word. His gift is to ground people in doctrine, reproof, correction, and righteousness. Within the Pastor’s gift of teaching is evangelism. The Pastor must equip believers to evangelize.

(Sundays, June 16 & 23, 2024)

III. Third Biblical Principle: On The Job Training!

There have been many messages preached on the responsibility of Christians to witness, and yet there is a striking absence of lay witnesses. We need on-the-job training in our churches. I believe evangelism is more caught than taught. The average person will never learn to evangelize in a class room. The missing link of evangelistic training, which was so thoroughly provided by Christ is, “on-the-job training!”

(Sunday, June 30, 2024)

IV. Fourth Biblical Principle: Training Soul Winners – More Important!

The fourth biblical principle is important. The Church must be about the business of training soul winners. Spiritual multiplication will not take place unless converts are turned into evangelists; disciples into disciples. About 95 percent of converts never win anyone to Christ because they are not equipped to do so.

The Lord Jesus did not say to go and make converts, but to go and make disciples. It is because winning a person to Christ is so important that training someone to win 10, 100 or 1000 people to Christ is so much more important. We are not seeking to win converts to become members of our church. Our witness is to win people to Christ. People must be trained to win people to Christ if the church is to have an effective ministry in evangelism.