

Jesus and Personal Evangelism

#1 Jesus Loved Unbelievers

- He loved lost people
- He was actually called “a friend of publicans and sinners” Matthew 11:19
- How many people would call us that?
- He walked with, talked with, and communicated with people in the world, but He wasn’t worldly
- People could feel that Jesus liked being with them (Even little children instinctively gravitated toward Him, Matthew 18:2)

Observations

- Our focus as a church needs to be toward the lost, not just each other
- I'm aware of churches of Christ that are "drying up" and dying even though they show love for each other (all of their love is inward and not outward)
- The "fellowship of the saved" is so tight that new members can't "break in"

Observations

- Every congregation thinks that their church family is a loving family
- People who think you are unloving don't stay
- If you were to ask a typical member of this church family about our love, they would say that we are “a friendly and a loving church”
- Typically that means we love each other and are friendly and loving to the people already here

**We love People
We are Comfortable With**

**But does that love automatically
translate to love for unbelievers
and visitors?**

Observations

- Some churches actually point to their lack of a crowd as proof that they are Biblical
- As if to say, “We are small because we don’t compromise our beliefs.”
- What it may actually mean is that they don’t love lost people enough to reach them
- Church growth would disturb their comfortable routine or worship schedule (their seat or their position of influence)

In Mark 6:31 the bible says that Jesus and His disciples were so busy with lost souls, that He and His disciples didn't even have a chance to eat!

- Can you imagine working so hard on our “Friends and Family Day”, that you didn’t get to eat what was prepared?

#2 Jesus Also Created an Atmosphere of Acceptance

- Plants need the right climate in which to grow and so do churches
- Loving churches grow and growing churches show love John 13:34-35
- It seems obvious, but for this church to continue to grow, we must be nice to people when they show up

**Did you not know that long before I
get in the pulpit, to preach,
visitors are already deciding if they
will come back!**

**P.E.M.---If every personal evangelism
member shook hands with every visitor
identified, that would be over 30 touches!**

I think that we must intentionally act
in ways that demonstrate our love
for visitors and those unfamiliar with
the body of Christ

**Love is more than a feeling, it's a
behavior (John 3:16)**

Leaders Must Set the Tone for the Atmosphere of the Church Family

- As minister of this church, I have to perform a self examination
- If I want to gauge the warmth of this church, I have to first put “the thermometer” in my mouth
- Leaders’ wives must be the same.
- You can’t be “Naturally Crabby”
- You can’t be an effective leader for Christ and not like to be around people

Preachers Have to Love People (Souls)

- I have gotten the distinct impression that some preachers like “the audience” but not “the people” very well
- Some preachers love to preach, but don’t love the people to whom they preach

When a Preacher Says “I Love to Preach”

What does he mean?

- Is it the adrenaline rush he feels when he is in front of people and they are listening to his every word
 - Or
- Is it a genuine love for the expression of the gospel and the possibilities of sowing seeds in the hearts of men and women

**(Is it the oration or the germination
that excites him?)**

#3 Jesus Loved Unbelievers Without Approving Their Lifestyle

- Jesus loved the soul of the Samaritan woman in John chapter 4 without approving her sexually immoral behavior (LGBT family members)
- He ate with Zacchaeus, the wicked tax collector without approving his dishonesty
- We eat with people every day, and at the same time, we can model righteousness and decency (sometimes a short course of scripture or an example helps)

Observations

- Any good fisherman knows that sometimes in order to reel in fish (especially feisty ones), you have to “cut a little slack” in the line
- If you pull hard and straight on the line with every fish you may snap your line or even your pole

When Fishing for Souls, the Same is True

- In order to reel them in (to salvation), you may have to give them some slack
- You can't hit everybody over the head with everything they are doing wrong immediately
- You can't expect Non-Christians to act like Christians until they become Christians

Paul Says That the Carnal Man is Not Subject to God's Law—Rom 8:7

Until the Power of the Holy Spirit
Dwells in a Person

- They may not dress as you dress
- They may not speak as you speak
- They may not worship as often as you worship
- They may not walk as you walk

#4 Jesus Wants us to Attract as He Did, With His Life

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives----when they see your respectful and pure conduct.”

1 Peter 3:1

Make Sure Your Ministry Has an Outreach Component

- Personal Evangelism
- Community Action
- Chorus Ministry
- Health Ministry
- Married Couples
- Singles Ministry
- Widowed Persons
- College Ministry

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 2:38