

STYLES OF EVANGELISM

Firstly, please write down what you think your strengths are.
e.g. friendly, talkative, academic etc...

Introduction

Evangelism – I know it conjures up fear in us. We get scared and sometimes become defensive.

I'm not meant to evangelise! It's not my calling! People don't listen anyway.

Clip of Stupid Evangelist. – ch (4) 3:19 secs - fade

We all feel embarrassed when we see people like that. There is a girl on the tube who shouts at everyone, condemning them and I feel embarrassed. God can still use that but most of us don't work that way.
e.g. young guy on tube last month. (Over the top)

Problems We Have

- **The problem is not evangelism but our idea of evangelism.**
Evangelism is something we are called to do.
To have concern for the lost. Amanda, Me & Park Illustration.
- 1. The Great Commission – **Matthew 28:19** “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*”
- **The problem is not evangelism but our idea of evangelism.**
2. The Armour of God – **Eph 6:15** “*and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace*”
The sandals are a vital part of our Armour. A soldier would never take off his sandals. That's how important God sees evangelism.

We must understand the bigger picture.

It's not *whether* we evangelise or not, it's **HOW!**

Rosie Driving Illustration – depending on where you sit you'll have a different perspective.

We must change our limited view of evangelism

Wheelbarrow Illustration - We can be *so* focused on what styles we can't do that we miss what we can do. *I can't go on the streets! I can't organize events! I can't preach!*

A missionary is not someone who crosses the seas but a missionary is someone who sees the cross.

Once we've seen the cross we are all missionaries.

- The second problem is that we don't know our **PURPOSE**
J Oswald Sanders said, "*Eyes that look are common but eyes that see are rare*".

We can go the whole of life and miss the point.

Christian life has a purpose:

St. Paul: To Know Christ &...Make Him Known.

These are the 2 books ends of life. The rest is in between.

Phil said: "*Listen to Jesus, and do what He says*"

Kurt said: "*Know the person*". "*Person based church*".

Some of us suffer from the Chris Columbus syndrome:

When he left he didn't know where he was going?

When he arrived he didn't know where he was?

When he got back he didn't know where he'd been!

The reason we get discouraged or back away from speaking about Jesus is we don't know our purpose. Where are we?

In heaven there will be **worship, praise, prayer, fellowship, perfection, the Word and God.**

Why did God leave us here?...to tell people about Him.

The only thing not needed in heaven is Evangelism!!

Change our View

Let's stop thinking about Evangelism as *street work or concerts or preaching* or as "*something I'm not called to do.*"

A monk once said, "*When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man I tried to change my family. Now, as an old man, I realise the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realise that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed a nation and I could indeed have changed the world.*"

We need to change our view. We all have ability and unique characters. Let God use them so you can witness about Jesus in a way that is comfortable and real to you.

1. Make Mistakes – Do not be afraid to try and speak about Jesus. If it goes wrong God is very forgiving. **e.g. A friend on my footy team asked me why I was a Christian, thinking he didn't go to church I told him he should. He then angrily told me how his dad had made a church to create money and find women. However, God still allowed me to show him then difference between "church" and God.**
2. Ask Questions – If you find it hard to initiate conversations or go straight to Jesus then ask questions. It is more interesting than talking about ourselves. **What do you do? What do you believe? Are you happy?**
e.g. Massi once asked a guy, Mike if he was a Christian? Mike then talked about how Massi was the 3rd person who had encouraged him to know Jesus.
3. Be prepared – Carry books & tracts, invite people, intentionally go out expecting to talk to someone. **Hare Krishna tract, homeless**
 - **** Scale -100 - +100 e.g. your book, or tract, or conversation or invite will have an immense effect and you may never know it & therefore GIVE UP!! NO!!!!**
 - **Grandad** – sometimes talk, serve, work hard, read Bible.

Talk to your family. Let them know your story.

We've seen to taken 5 of Jesus' words too seriously: **"see that you tell no-one"**

Some of us are like artic rivers; **we are frozen at the mouth!**

- **LOOK AT YOUR PIECES OF PAPER!!! ***

Different Styles – 2 Sam 14:14. God devises ways!!

In football there is one aim: **win the game** but different styles.

In Evangelism there is one aim: **win people to Christ** but different styles.

What style works for you?

1) **Incarnational & Invitational** – These 2 are mandatory for every Christian.

To incarnate means to “*flesh out*”, live the gospel.

Read Matthew 5:16 – “*light shine*”. So important!!

We live God’s way so when we do speak it has authenticity.

e.g. School not swearing. Helped later on in 6th form.

To invite is so easy. “*would you like to... come to..., read this...watch this*”

Most of the time you haven’t had to organise anything, just invite people.

I always invited Ben & Dad to stuff and they always said no until they finally said yes! **Alpha Courses etc. Recommending a book, film, art exhibition that promote discussion.**

e.g. Inviting Ben to Christian Bookshop, Noise event etc..

2) **Testimonial** – Everyone has a testimony or story of how Jesus has changed their life. Share it whenever you can. **E.g. At football my mates always without fail tease me about being a Christian. They call me Father and even wrote a prayer for me. I laugh it off, stick to my guns and eventually I spoke to three of them, for an hour about the gospel after the game! All I did was share my story. Jesus said to “go back and tell your family of all that God has done for you”**

3) **Compassion** – This style speaks volumes to people and is so effective. The homeless (Eleos), the elderly (Apple Tree), bereaved, fostering orphans, (Ed of Eleos). Get involved in some kind of compassion evangelism. People in these situations can’t wait to hear you share some Hope. **Go to Apple Tree and sit and talk to people.**

4) **Community** – Get involved in community projects:

- Parish Nursing – **share testimony???**
- North Road Estate
- Toddler Time – **share testimony???**
- NRG/Youth Café
- School Governor
- CSV/ITV (September) *

5) **Street Work** – Come out on the street and speak to people, hand out leaflets or drinks. Listen to people. Give it a try. Just sit there!!!
e.g. We talk to back-slidden Christians, nominal Christians, Muslims, JW's, street cleaners, elderly, Police, immigrants. People notice us and are beginning to trust us.

6) **Confrontational** – So much could be said about this one. This style may have scared you away from evangelism but remember: *see the bigger picture – it's one of many styles!!*
e.g. Street work in Rome
e.g. Massi – loving, kind, effective but confrontational!!!

7) **Institutional** – Schools, prisons, police, hospitals.
e.g. Mum volunteers at Holloway. There's no one there to talk to them expect the volunteers.

8) **Prayerful** – VERY IMPORTANT!! **Ephesians 6:18.**
Pray as you walk along. You never know.
Pray for opportunities. **Praying and the guy turning round and talking.**
Pray for evangelist and evangelism.
Pray for people you see. **Story of guy shouting through letter box.**
Pray for loved ones. Never give up.

9a) **Relational/Erenical/Friendship** – A MUST.
We all have friends and must share the gospel with them. The most success I've had in leading people to Christ is through my friendships.
We must overcome the fear of losing them as friends and ask the serious questions!!
Just share your story!! Make sure all your family, friends & colleagues know you're a Christian. It makes it easier.
E.g. Luca, (Elizabeth), Giacomo, Ben. 2 Xtian's Vs 2 Non Xtian's

9b) **Hospitality** – One of the best ways to relax people and create trust is **DINNER!!** Especially for cross-cultural witness

10) **FOLLOW UP** – What's the point in seeing people saved if we don't nurture them. Adopt a new believer. If we care for people we don't want to see them just saved but nurtured.

A full list is in next months Newsletter.

Conclusion

One of these styles if not more, relates to you.

No longer must we think of evangelism as one style.

Some of us are called to evangelise strangers. Most of us are called to evangelise our “Jerusalem”.

Write down NOW a style/s most suited to your characteristics.

- Evangelism is something we should get excited about.

FIND A WAY IN WHICH YOU CAN FULFIL THE GREAT COMMISSION.

Q) Why did Christianity grow so fast? Because Christians took the Great Commission seriously!

**SATAN WANTS TO SHUT YOU UP WITH FEAR
DON'T LET HIM!!**

1 snowflake on your face can be wiped away, 1 billion snow flakes stops a city!

St. Augustine said that you can't have GOD as your Father, without having the church as your Mother.

Let's evangelise on a personal level but let's also come together.

PRAY: Don't let Satan distract us from this.

Give us the Father's heart

Help us step out for you