

QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTERS 3-4

Remember why we are doing this?

1. This is our goal: that we might "...be more understanding and obedient in evangelism.... I also pray that as you come to evangelize more, you will help your church to develop a culture of evangelism. What do I mean by a culture of evangelism? I mean an expectation that Christians will share the gospel with others, talk about doing that, pray about it, and regularly plan and work together to help each other evangelize. We want evangelism to be normal-in our own lives and in our churches."
2. Similarly to the story that begins the book, have some share stories where you have seen the gospel's power at work in your life or in the life of someone else.
3. From last week: If you didn't get to chapter two in last week's discussion feel free to have some people share the gospel or gospel phrases that help you remember, love, and share the gospel.

Chapter 3 Who Should Evangelize?

4. The Evangelism is the work of all true followers of Jesus and it begins by loving one another with the gospel.
 - a. Summary: Evangelism is not just for the professional evangelists but for all of the church. Luke 15 and Luke 19:10 help us see Jesus' pursuit of the lost and our pursuit in turn as we seek to follow Jesus. It was clear the early church was public with their faith as they were regularly persecuted for telling the stories of the gospel, the stories of Jesus. Sharing the best news ever known to humanity with one who has never heard or never embraced it or never applied it is the core of "loving your neighbor as yourself." Evangelism begins by being an authentic community of love and then spills over in love for those who are not part of that community. (see the quote by John Stott on 50-51). As the church we are to know God and then make him known to the world. (see Philippians 2:16 and Colossians 1:24 for Scriptural support)
 - b. We all contribute to evangelism simply by building up the local church- helping to organize and lead it. We may teach and equip. We may provide hospitality and encouragement. We may pray and serve and show mercy and give. But we also all have the responsibility to speak of God and the good news both inside and outside of the church. (p51)
5. Share ways we can speak of God and the good news to one another inside the church.
 - a. Speaking of evidences of grace- where you see God at work in each other's lives

- b. Apply Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension to the everyday problems in your group or among your friends and family.
 - i. Christ's power in you gives hope
 - ii. His death on your behalf frees you from guilt.
 - iii. His death on your behalf frees you from the self-righteousness. He alone has made you righteous.
 - iv. Your purpose in life is characterized by living for Christ and laying down your life in love as he did for you.
 - v. Marriages, roommates Jesus did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. Serve don't demand service.
- c. Share ways your life has been changed by the gospel. Console the group if this seems foreign to them. Of course it does to many. This is why we are doing this.
 - i. Share how it took someone sharing the gospel with you that led to your changed life.
 - ii. Share how the gospel helped you in a specific time in your walk as a Christian. Ex. exposing sin, lifting up while in a depression or while under personal condemnation, etc

Chapter 4 How Should We Evangelize?

1. Summary:
 - a. Find the balance: be honest about difficulty of following Jesus, the wrath of God towards sin and the need for repentance; have a sense of urgency; let them know of the joy that is promised in the gospel.
 - b. Exercise the specifics: Pray, use the Bible, be clear, provoke self-reflection, use the church.
2. Honesty and Joy: When you share the gospel what parts are you tempted to leave out? Repentance, that it is costly, that the road is difficult, the justice of God, his wrath, hell, joy, forgiveness, abundant life, etc. If you are motivated by love and not superiority then these can be an honest part of your care for this person.
3. Urgency: How does the reality of the urgency of eternity effect your view of sharing the gospel? As you pray about sharing your faith in light of urgency, is there anyone you need to pursue more diligently?
4. Which two specifics on how to share your faith are the easiest for you to implement? Which are the most difficult?
5. Share an observation or an insight that benefitted you from the two chapters.

As you go into small group, use any of these as areas of prayer as well as celebrating victories and bearing the burdens some people are carrying.