

EVANGELISM: DIFFERENT CONTEXTS/ Q&A

The Unbelievable Gospel: Say Something Worth Believing by
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Tactics by Greg Koukl

Get Real: Sharing Your Everyday Faith Every Day by John S.
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WHERE WE ARE

- Week 1: Setting the stage/ Evangelism Defeaters
 - Week 2: Re-Evangelization (Getting our own theology right)
 - Week 3: Interacting with Culture/ Tolerance
 - Week 4: Putting it into Practice/ Breaking through the casual
 - **Week 5: Evangelism in different contexts/ Q&A**
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RECAP

- Week 1: Setting the stage/ Evangelism Defeaters
 - Why we evangelize
 - What stops us from evangelizing (Defeaters)
- Week 2: Re-Evangelization (Getting our own theology right)
 - Confronting our Fear of man with a better understanding of the Gospel of Adoption
 - Multiple dimensions of the Gospel:
 - Historical
 - Personal
 - Cosmic

RECAP (2)

- Wk 3: **Classical** Tolerance vs. **New** Tolerance
 - All opinions are equally valid or true
 - Fluency- speaking the Gospel in our current cultural climate: Paul's model & Jesus' model
 - Wk 4: Testimonies & Gospel Metaphors – different facets of the Gospel that speak into specific circumstances/ heart-states
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FIVE GOSPEL METAPHORS

- **Justification** (Legal metaphor): A righteous God relates to unrighteous people- by making us righteous
- **Redemption** (Slavery/ sacrifice): In Jesus, our incurable sinful status is uniquely cured- he absorbs our sin and dies our death
- **Adoption** (Family metaphor): In Jesus, we are adopted out of the satanic family and placed into God's family
- **New Creation** (life/death metaphor): In Jesus, the old life is exiled and a new life introduced- through His resurrection life
- **Union with Christ** (body-marriage metaphor): In Jesus, a life divided from God is united with Him to enjoy all his graces

STEVE'S STORY

- Steve attended church regularly and participated in activities
 - He recently left working for a family business and was employed at a company
 - He continued to try to merit approval from others whether at work, at home, or at church
 - People who are consistently are trying to:
 - Prove yourself to yourself (perfectionism)
 - Prove yourself to others (people-pleasers)
 - Prove yourself to God (by “religious” activities)
 - Gospel Remedy: Gospel Metaphor of **justification** tells us that we can never be righteous apart from Christ; Jesus has already “proven” Himself worthy and frees us from perpetually trying to please others/prove ourselves
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BEN'S STORY

- Ben was a recent ex-convict, cyclical drug addict
- He had grown up in church but felt rejected/ always felt others were talking about him
- After further questioning, he admitted he was hoping to erase the past and get his life back together to start a new future
- Ben needed **hope**
- Gospel Remedies: Gospel Metaphors of Redemption and New Creation
 - **Redemption** tells us that even in our incurable sinful state, Jesus sacrificed Himself for us, absorbs our sin and takes our penalty
 - **New Creation** tells us that our past failures are erased and that we are made anew

EVANGELISM IN COMMUNITY

- “The church is God’s evangelistic genius, not isolated people with evangelistic drive. In fact, people rarely come to faith from a single gospel witness. Most conversions are the result of a process that occurs over time and involves a variety of different gospel testimonies and experiences.”
- Paul’s letters rarely exhort individual Christians to go and evangelize but emphasizes more living in community centered on Jesus and in life in the Spirit
- Church is not only called to **proclaim the gospel** (evangelism) but **promote the gospel** (other activities that draw people to Christ)
- The Body of Christ is made up of many different people with many different gifts
 - Some are more gifted at drawing people in/ making them feel comfortable
 - Some are more gifted at answering questions/ explaining gospel doctrine
 - All are necessary for evangelism

FEW WORDS ABOUT THOSE HOSTILE TO CHRISTIANITY

- Priority is building relationship beyond the “debate”
- Question others’ preassumptions and acknowledge one’s own
- Common preassumptions from those hostile to Christianity:
 - Naturalism- things that have no scientific or empirical proof are not possible (eg. resurrection, miracles)
 - The Bible is a book of myths- not historically accurate
- A good goal: get them to acknowledge that Christian faith is a reasonable choice/ worldview

TACTICS

- Maneuver a conversation to expose another person's bad thinking so you can guide them to truth
 - Tactics are not tricks or clever ploys to humiliate the other person. Keep the goal in mind.
 - Arguing/ principled conflict can be good to advance clear thinking. Arguing doesn't mean getting angry.
 - Never forget God's central role in the process of evangelization
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TACTICS

- Have a modest goal- aim to put a stone in someone's shoe. Try to give the person one thing to think about. Be content to plant a seed
 - What do you mean by that? To truly learn what the other person thinks so you don't make false assumptions; helps the other person think clearer about what they believe
 - How did you come to that conclusion? Burden of proof shifts to the other person. People need to be able to give some reasons for important things they think are true
 - It is ok to say I don't know and/or let me think about it.
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Q&A