

NSP Position on Evangelism

We believe that evangelism is a primary purpose of the church (Mt. 28:18-20). Our evangelism is motivated by God Himself, who was the first evangelist and has been seeking and saving lost people since the Fall (Gen. 3). It is also motivated by a deep desire that God be glorified in the lives of people whom He desires to go from worshipping idols to worshipping the one true God. We are further motivated for evangelism as we share God's love for the lost (II Pet. 3:9; Mt. 9:36, 14:4, 23:37). Finally, we share the Gospel in obedience to Christ's commands (Mt. 28:18-20; Jn. 4:35, 15:6).

We believe that God is most glorified and life is most meaningful, abundant, and fulfilling when we are obeying God in reaching out to others and sharing Christ with them (Ps 63:3; Mk. 8:34-35; Jn. 4:34; II Co. 4:17).

We believe that all Christians are called to be witnesses, whether they are "gifted" in evangelism or not. We believe the Gospel is the message that God, the holy creator and ruler of the world, who sent His only Son to live a perfectly righteous life, die as an atoning sacrifice for our sins, and rise from the dead, so that sinful men and women who repent of their sins and trust in Christ as their Savior and Lord, though deserving death & hell, can be forgiven, have peace with God and eternal life as children of God.

We believe the Gospel's main demand on unbelievers is to repent of their sins and trust Jesus for forgiveness of sins and newness of life (Is. 30:15; Jer.15:19; Ez.18:32; Mk. 6:12; Lk. 13:3; Jn. 1:12, 20:31; Acts 3:19; 16:31). We keep this the focus in our evangelism as well. While Christians living in light of the Gospel should impact every area of society, we believe that the focus in evangelism should be on the need for faith in Christ, turning from sin and turning one's life over to Christ (i.e. repentance).

We believe that relational contexts are rich platforms for sharing the Gospel. If we are to truly love our friends and neighbors, then we must tell them about their need for Christ. A great deal of the evangelism that happens in CSP happens in a relational context. The high school student leaders we train to share Christ on their campuses have extensive networks of friends for whom they have modeled a godly Christian life. It is our sincere goal & earnest desire to equip Christian student leaders to share the Gospel with the friends God has already placed in their lives.

We also believe that having a relational context is not necessary in order to meaningfully share the Gospel with another person. In fact, much of the evangelism we see in the Bible took place through the initiative of a believer outside of a relational context. We see this in the Old Testament (Jonah 1:1), Christ's example (Jn. 4; Jn. 8; Mk. 1:14-15), in Christ's training of His disciples (Mk. 6:7-12; Lk. 9:1-10; Lk. 10:1-17; Mt. 10:1-16), and in the Apostles' ministry after Christ's ascension (Acts 4:8, 31; 6:5-10; 7:54; 8:29; 17:1-33; etc).

We believe that sharing the Gospel necessarily involves using words. The Bible teaches that people must believe in order to be saved, but before they can believe they must hear, and before they can hear someone must tell them (Rom 10:14-17). Living a godly life is

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essential for all believers, and can serve as a validation for our message. Yet it is not sufficient for one's lifestyle alone to be one's evangelism, and living out the Gospel must not be confused with sharing the message itself.

We believe that ministries devoted to preaching the Gospel while addressing critical issues such as AIDS, sex trafficking, and access to drinkable water are much needed today. We praise God for the recent surge in Christian ministries devoted to addressing such issues while faithfully preaching the Gospel. However, we also recognize that people's deepest, most basic need is forgiveness of sins and a restored relationship with God.

We believe that God has put CSP in a position to help meet this fundamental spiritual need in high schools across California. As a ministry organized for the purpose of sharing the life changing news of Jesus Christ in public high schools, we single-mindedly focus our time and energy on fulfilling this mission to which God has called us.

We believe that we should have great confidence in sharing the Gospel because of the power of Christ, the Spirit, and the Word. Christ has been given all authority (Mt. 28:18-20), is actively drawing all men to Himself (Jn. 12:32), and has given believers authority to preach the Gospel. The Holy Spirit convicts people of their sin (Jn. 16:8-11), draws them to faith in Christ (Jn. 15:25-27) and empowers believers for fruitful proclamation about Christ (Acts 1:8; Acts 10:38). The Word of God is alive, active (Heb. 4:12) and accomplishes God's purposes in people's lives (Is. 55:11). Our hope and confidence then in our evangelism is not in our methodology, a relational context, or ourselves but in the power of Christ, the power of the Spirit, and the power of the Word.

We believe that we are being faithful to Christ when we take the initiative to share the Gospel, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and leave the results to God. While our goal in evangelism is to help people become lifelong followers & worshippers of Christ, we recognize that the fruit of our efforts is outside of our control and in God's hands.

We believe the local church is God's chosen primary context for helping people grow. We work alongside the church, helping reach students with the Gospel on campuses in ways otherwise inaccessible to local churches. We believe it is absolutely vital that students who hear about Christ at their schools be given the opportunity to connect with a local church.

We provide opportunities for connecting with a local church through student leaders and youth pastors. We train Christian student leaders who host outreaches to follow-up with their friends and invite them to their home church. We also do this by training students to invite their youth pastors to be guest speakers at on-campus outreach and follow-up events. These youth pastors can then connect directly with un-churched students and invite them to visit their churches. Finally, we help youth pastors host follow-up events at their churches at the end of an outreach week. Christian students can invite their peers to these events, providing every student who makes a decision for Christ or who wants to know more about Christ, an opportunity to get plugged into a local church.