

evangelism

Who evangelized to you?

What approach to individual evangelism have you found beneficial?

New Testament evangelism in the apostles' letters

Read 2 Corinthians 4:13-15 (CSB).

¹³ And since we have the same spirit of faith in keeping with what is written, **I believed, therefore I spoke**, we also believe, and therefore speak. ¹⁴ For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you. ¹⁵ Indeed, everything is for your benefit so that, as grace extends through more and more people, it may cause thanksgiving to increase to the glory of God.

We have the same spirit of faith. What do we believe?

We believe, and therefore we speak. Give practical examples of this.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 6:2 (CSB).

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion, that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a worldly perspective. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we no longer know him in this way. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! ¹⁸ Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." ²¹He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 Working together with him, we also appeal to you, "Don't receive the grace of God in vain." ²For he says: **At an acceptable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.**

See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation!

What compels us?

What are we compelled to do?

Outline the message of reconciliation.

Describe the ministry of reconciliation.

What makes this ministry urgent?

Read Colossians 4:2-6 (CSB).

²Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. ³At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains, ⁴so that I may make it known as I should. ⁵Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. ⁶Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

What part does prayer have in evangelism?

Act wisely toward outsiders.

How do I as a person do that?

How do we as a congregation do that?

Let your speech...

What does Paul want to teach us about our speaking?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-12 (CSB).

⁹ But you are **a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises** of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul. ¹² Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits.

What is every Christian's calling?

Read 1 Peter 3:13-22 (CSB).

¹³ Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. **Do not fear them or be intimidated,** ¹⁵ but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. ¹⁶ Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ in which he also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison ²⁰ who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared. In it a few—that is, eight people—were saved through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (not as the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

What do you think makes us sometimes afraid to speak?

What are we told to be ready for?

How are we told to do this?

Why are we told to do this?

In our congregational planning and work, we consider this our purpose and cause:
“Communicating Christianity by word and deed to people of all ages.”

What has our congregation done in the past for evangelism?