

- Evangelism/Gospelizing as interchangeable terms
- Last week we looked at the Gospel and Community (i.e. the church)
- This morning considering what we typically associate with evangelism - reaching those outside of Christ – those who have not been reconciled to God through the Gospel and entered the Kingdom of God
- This week I want to lay some biblical foundations to inform our thinking about our life in the world
- Next week some practical suggestions of how to do this

Living Out the Gospel in Our Own Lives

- Mt5:13-16 – not a church meeting oriented command
- What are these good works? Certainly connected to the Beatitudes in vv.3-10
- Humility, brokenness (we ourselves are broken), hunger and thirst for righteousness, mercy, peacemaker, joy in the midst of affliction – displaying our ongoing sense of our need for the Savior
- Phil2:14-16 without grumbling and disputing
- 1Pet3:15-17 It is the hope that in such a life (even though imperfect) others will see, and ask questions
- This isn't apologetics in the common way (philosophical debate), but rather give reason for our hope

Seeking Opportunities to do Good to All Men

- Gal6:10 looking for opportunities to do good
- Mt5:43-48 loving, blessing, doing good, praying for others – especially those who don't reciprocate
- We are tempted to act in relationships that we will only invest as much as we think we can get return
- This is to deal with others as God has dealt with us in the Gospel (in which we find our power)

Engaging the World with Love and Discernment

- there are two common extremes when it comes to answer the question about our engagement with the world
- 1.) An unloving separation from the world (1Jn2:15)** – this was the error of the Pharisees (separatists)
 - a concern to not "contaminate" ourselves or our children – this fosters a "ghetto" mentality
 - We cocoon ourselves in a Christian world – school, church, workplace, co-ops, hospitality
- 2.) An undiscerning immersion in the world (1Cor9:19-23)** – this is the error of license to sin
 - we can forget 1Cor15:33, that association can effect corruption in our lives
- 3.) A loving and discerning engagement with the world**
 - Col4:5-6 a wise walking with those "outside", redeeming the time – particularly speech oriented, grace filled
 - We need to ask the question (in particular situations) whether we are influencing for good or being influenced for evil
 - remembering that we are fellow human beings with them, provoking dignity and desire for their good
 - Being human with them, looking for common interests, showing how they are not idols, but God's good gifts

Seeing Evangelism not as a Program, but Relational

- There is the place for those with preaching/proclamation gifts in public settings
- What about those who don't have them? Do we try to develop those gifts and fit everyone into that mold, or are there other biblical avenues for bringing the light of the Gospel
- Gospel-oriented relationships - evangelism is not, in this perspective, *programmatic*, but *relational*
- We are living out our new humanity in Christ among fellow broken people without self-righteousness or superiority
- The temptation of "bigger is better", and the bigger the results the more success
- A program tends toward treating people impersonally, by-passing who they are and what they have experienced in life
- We should strive instead to invest ourselves in the relationships God has naturally given us with our literal neighbors, workmates, extended family

*Most Gospel ministry involves ordinary people doing ordinary things with gospel intentionality. (Chester and Timmis, *Total Church*)*

- Biblical evangelism isn't merely living the Christian life before others, neither is it merely giving the Gospel message, but living and speaking the Gospel with intentionality (deliberately).
- Seeing people not merely as recipients of a message, but also recipients of God's love through us.
- We don't merely want them to "get saved" (decision focused), but to be fully integrated into the Gospel community of the church