

THE PROFIT OF EVANGELISM

(Matthew 28:18-20)

1) Evangelism helps us grow in knowledge.

- a) One of the main excuses people give for not evangelizing is “I don’t know what to say”.
 - i) No doubt it is difficult to begin to talk to someone about the gospel.
 - ii) Also, we are going to be challenged by those with whom we discuss scripture.
- b) Conversations with non-Christians force us to have a better knowledge of the gospel message.
 - i) No one likes to appear as unknowledgeable on a subject.
 - ii) Especially if we are the ones who started the conversation in the first place.
 - iii) Too many times we don’t talk to others about the gospel because we don’t really know the gospel message.
- c) Being evangelistic is going to force us to study the Bible because we can’t teach what we don’t know.
- d) You and I are commanded to...(2 Peter 3:18).
- e) We will have to do this if we want to evangelize.
 - i) No one can talk about something they don’t know.
 - ii) We will have to become better students in order to evangelize.
- f) This is different than knowing something.
 - i) There are some things I know but I can’t put into words how I know it.
 - ii) Knowing something and explaining it are two different things.

2) Evangelism helps us grow in love for God and man.

- a) Mark 12:28-31 – we are called to love God and our fellow man.
- b) The more we tell others about the God we love, the deeper our love for God will become.
- c) Agape love is a sacrificial love that seeks the highest good for its object.
 - i) In this case, love for our neighbor, fellow man, causes us to want to teach them the gospel because it can result in their highest good, salvation.
 - ii) The feeling of teaching someone the gospel and them understanding and obeying the gospel message is indescribable.
 - iii) You recall I just mentioned some things I know but can’t put into words: this is one of them.
- d) When that person is saved by the gospel it will cause you to grow more in love for God because you think about how God made it possible for man to be saved.
- e) When we evangelize as we should, we will grow in love for God and man.

3) Evangelism helps us deepen our faith.

- a) When studying with someone, you are going to get an unexpected question or an objection to what you have just said.
 - i) How are you going to handle that?
 - ii) We can’t get mad when someone disagrees with us or asks us a tough question.
- b) What will happen is, we will have to study and see why we believe what we believe.
- c) Why do believe there is only one church?
- d) Why do we not use mechanical instruments of music in worship?

- e) Why are we telling this person that they must be immersed in water in order to obtain the remission of sins?
- f) Why are we telling them that one does not inherit the sin of Adam?
- g) These and other questions will come up in a study.
 - i) We may be able to tell someone what we believe.
 - ii) Can we tell them why we believe it?
- h) What this does is cause us to study and that study will deepen our faith in the Bible and in God and His plan for man.
 - i) What sharing the gospel message with a person does is put us in a position to hear objections and find answers to questions we might have not asked ourselves.
 - j) Incidentally, there is nothing wrong with saying "I don't know, but I'll find the answer and get back with you".
 - i) Don't make something up or get mad that they asked you this question.
 - ii) If the shoe was on the other foot, you would be asking questions as well.

4) **Evangelism helps us grow in endurance.**

- a) Romans 5:3-5.
- b) We are not seeking out suffering.
 - i) No one does that.
 - ii) We want to suffer as little as possible, which is human nature.
- c) However, we must be prepared to endure it (2 Timothy 1:8).
- d) If we engage in evangelism, there will be times that we will suffer some type of persecution.
 - i) Not everyone will appreciate our evangelistic efforts.
 - ii) Also, when you go to work for God, Satan takes notice.
 - iii) He will come at us in various ways to get us to sit back down and be quiet again.
- e) The apostles suffered for their evangelistic efforts and it encouraged them because they knew they were suffering for being faithful to God (Acts 5:41).
- f) Matthew 5:12; 1 Peter 3:14.
- g) We are going to be persecuted if we engage in evangelism but it will produce endurance.

5) **Evangelism helps us obey God.**

- a) The command to evangelize is just that, a command.
 - i) God is not asking us to evangelize.
 - ii) God is not suggesting we evangelize.
- b) When Jesus gave us the Great Commission, He commanded us to teach all things that He commanded (Matthew 28:20).
- c) Evangelization is one of the things He commanded.
 - i) New converts can and should be evangelists also.
 - ii) This is a wonderful time for them to begin because the gospel message that they obeyed is fresh on their minds.
- d) God has commanded us to evangelize and doing so allows us to be obedient to Him.

Part of this outline came from another source. Author unknown.