

An Introduction to Personal Evangelism: Love God, Love Your Neighbor, Love the Truth

Something to think about before we begin:

Why do you think our initial desire to “run out and tell everyone the good news!” wanes?

Mark 12:28-34 (see also Matthew 22:34-40)

According to Mark’s gospel, what led this scribe of the Pharisees to ask Jesus about “the most important” commandment? [Mark 12:28; cp Matthew 22:34-35]

Analyze Jesus’ response to this scribe *in the light of Personal Evangelism*:

“The Lord our God, the Lord is one” [Mark 12:29; cp Deuteronomy 6:4]

- For the Israelites headed into a land where there were multiple “gods”, the prospect of falling into idolatry was a real danger. For us, in a world where “one God (or one faith) is as good as another”, why might it be important to emphasize “the Lord is one”? [cp John 17:17, 20-21]

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart” [Mark 12:30; Matthew 22:37]

- In practical terms, how should “loving God with all our heart” manifest itself in our interactions with other people? (consider, for example, conversations you have had with people who are passionate about some sports team or some hobby or their grandkids...)

- What might be some reasons why we are more quick to speak of *other things* that we are passionate about, but not as quick to speak of the Lord our God, whom we love?

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your...soul” [Mark 12:30; Matthew 22:37]

- In practical terms, how might “loving God with all our soul” manifest itself in our interactions with other people? (consider, for example, Peter’s admonitions in 1 Peter 2:9-10; 3:15-17 and 2 Peter 3:9-11, 14-15)

- In what ways might our own conduct end up hindering our ability to speak of the gospel with the people we spend the most time around? How can truly loving God with all our soul help?

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your mind (strength)” [Mark 12:30; Matt 22:37]
- In practical terms, how should “loving God with all our mind (strength)” manifest itself as we prepare to interact with other people on His behalf? (consider, for example, the amount of mental effort required to become a good heart surgeon, with the goal of saving peoples’ *physical* lives)

- What are some reasons (excuses) we might give for not being as prepared as we ought to be in order to become “good” (better) at personal evangelism?

“The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” [Mark 12:31; Matthew 22:39]
- In practical terms, how should “loving our neighbor as ourself” manifest itself as we consider what other peoples’ greatest needs are? (consider, for example, the *context* of the “golden rule” in Matthew 7:7-12)

- What are some reasons (excuses) why we might withhold the much-needed news of salvation from those around us who desperately need it? Would we want someone to hide it from us?

Romans 1:14-17; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-14

Once Paul had been enlightened by the truth of the gospel, what did he consider to be true about himself? [Rom 1:14-15] Why might we not be so inclined to think of ourselves this way?

What did Paul recognize as the only way he could reach the lost with God’s power to save? [Rom 1:16-17] Do we believe that the lost might be saved some *other* way?

What did Paul tell Timothy should be the desire of the Lord’s servant (literally, “slave” - note he didn’t say “preacher”)? [2 Tim 2:24-26] Do we honestly think of other people as needing to “come to their senses” and being “ensnared by the devil”? *Would it help if we could see this?*

According to the apostle Paul, what must people do in order to be saved - which Satan is working hard to keep from happening? [2 Thess 2:9-12] What did Paul use to reach those in Thessalonica, that they might be sanctified? [2 Thess 2:13-14] What then must we also use?

May the Lord help us to LOVE GOD, LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR, and LOVE THE TRUTH!!