

EVANGELISM:

how the whole church speaks of Jesus

Week 13—What is the gospel?

As we finish our study on evangelism, we don't want to take for granted the message that we are setting out to proclaim—the Gospel!

Question—Could you share the gospel accurately in less than 2 minutes? Have you found a certain outline helpful in the past?

A gospel presentation.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Everything is his creation—including humanity. This holy, just, and loving God made mankind in his own image. Think of it: he created us to glorify and enjoy him forever!

Instead of loving God back, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and rebelled against him by choosing to sin rather than submit to him as Lord. Just as God promised, their sin against him brought death. Adam's sin spread to all of us. We are all sinners, so we will all die under God's wrath for our disobedience to his commands.

But God had a plan. He promised that one day a Savior would come, crush sin and death, and save mankind from his rebellion against God. Somehow a sacrifice would be made in our place to cleanse us from all sin and make us his children again.

At just the right time, God sent his own Son Jesus to be the perfect Savior for all of us. He was fully God, powerful to overcome sin and death, and fully man, able to die in our place for our sins. He did not disobey his Father, but became obedient even to the point of dying on a cross at the hands of sinful men like us.

They put his body in a grave. But on the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead and set him on a throne of power and authority over the whole universe. Over 400 eyewitnesses saw Jesus alive, and even his enemies could not cover up the fact that his grave was empty.

This is the good news: that although you are in rebellion against God, and although it was your sin that nailed Jesus to the cross, he has the authority and compassion to forgive your sins if you will repent, turn from your sin, and believe in him as your Savior and King.

This salvation is for all who believe—regardless of your past, your color, your class, or your age. Repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit who is the beginning of the new, eternal, abundant life of following Jesus Christ, and you can have hope that you will be raised just like him on the day he comes back to make all things new.

A gospel outline.

Some people like a sparser outline, others like more help. Here are two basic outlines that will help you make sure you communicate the whole gospel message, one simple, one a bit more filled out:

5 Part Explanation

1. God
2. Man
3. Christ
4. Response
5. Cost

From Peter's Sermon in Acts 2

1. God planned to send a Savior. (2:22-23a)
2. Jesus was crucified. (2:23b)
3. God raised Jesus. (2:24,32)
4. Jesus is the Messiah King. (2:33-36)
5. We must repent and believe. (2:37-38a)
6. He will forgive our sins. (2:38b)
7. He will give us his Spirit. (2:38c)
8. This message is for everyone. (2:39)
9. Receive the gospel and be baptized! (2:41)

Regardless of which format you choose, it's important that you practice this message for the sake of your own encouragement in Christ and in order to be ready, bold, and confident when the opportunity comes.

Question—Who will give it a try? Take turns practicing a gospel presentation.