

Why Witness with the Church?

Evangelism is sharing the Gospel, “or good news,” with others. But, we must clarify terms.

- the *Reason* for the Gospel (Romans 5:8)
- the *Content* of the Gospel: Person & Work of Christ (1 Cor 15:1-8)
- the *Effects* of the Gospel: 2 Transactions (2 Cor 5:21)
- the *Saving Response* to the Gospel (Romans 10:9)

Read 2 Kings 7. How is the situation of the 4 lepers similar to the experience and obligation of Christians? Why is it significant in the analogy that they were lepers?

Dr. Whitney gives **6 reasons for participating in the church’s mission of evangelism:**

1. God is glorified more through a congregational witness.
2. There is joy in having a part in someone coming to Christ.
3. God has chosen the local church as the primary channel for His message.
4. Evangelism is the privilege and responsibility of everyone in the church.
5. Together we can demonstrate the reality of Christ’s power and love better.
6. Judgment is coming and people must be persuaded by the gospel.

Which of those most motivates you to help Providence Church spread the good news? Why?

Respond to Dr. Whitney’s question: “Evangelism sounds like a noble idea, but why don’t we just leave it to those who have the gifts or the time ...?”

What are the strengths & weaknesses of “parachurch” organizations geared toward evangelism?

What is the often overlooked evangelistic thrust of 1 Peter 2:9?

Read John 17:20-21. How does Christian unity both glorify God and bear witness to the power of the gospel?

“When Christians as a group get together, there is power. The Scriptures say that others shall know we are Christ’s disciples by the love we display for each other. We should welcome unbelievers as observers in our fellowship communities where we speak not mere words but live concepts. Our brother-sister relationships are the dynamic equivalents for the truth we wish to convey.” ~Will Metzger, *Tell the Truth*

What’s the potential upside of inviting a non-Christian to church?

Dr. Whitney wrote: “I’ve found that the longer someone has been a churchgoer, the less likely he or she is to invite a lost person to church.” Why might that be the case?

What are some ways evangelism can be done, or facilitated, together?

What do we say to those who profess to be Christians, but are “unevangelistic and unconcerned about it”?

Remember, evangelism is our business. Conversion is God’s. Only He makes seeds grow (1 Cor 3:6-7), draws (John 6:44), opens hearts to respond (Act 16:14), and adds to the number of the church (Acts 2:47). Thus, God alone gets the glory. *Soli Deo Gloria!*