

Week 1 Evangelism: The Goal & God

Evangelism is explaining *a sufficient amount of the truth* about the *bad news of sin* and the *good news of salvation* that someone may actually be able to *understand* and *believe* the gospel message *for the first time*.

Evangelism means; that we *faithfully* & *regularly confidently* & *unapologetically* yet *lovingly* & *graciously* explain the truth about the core message of the gospel, *biblically* & *systematically*.

A true presentation of the gospel includes: **GOD – LAW – GOSPEL**

Today we want to unpack the 1st part, **GOD**.

We must ask; How much/what parts about God and his **character & nature** must someone **understand & believe** in order to understand the message of **sin-salvation** & be saved?

All of God's attributes & actions etc. are *equally glorious, equally beautiful* and *very important*...but not all are necessary to be known, understood and believed in order to be saved!

There are facets of God's character & nature that play a _____ role in the sin-salvation narrative and others that play a _____ role.

Our job in evangelism is to tell about the *attributes* and *accounts* of God that play a significant role in the understanding of the sin-salvation narrative.

Which facets of God's character & nature play a *major role* in the sin-salvation narrative?

G O D: As the Author. GOD must be understood as the *author* of life and the _____ that holds all things together. He is our origin, our creator and our daily sustainer. (Col 1:16-17)

G O D: As the Authority. GOD must be understood as our ruling *authority* and arbiter. He is the one to whom we owe our all and we are each _____ to him! (Heb 4:13)

G O D: As the Righteous. GOD must be understood as *righteous* and holy (morally perfect). God is the greatest & ultimate good in the universe, and is necessarily the _____ standard of what is good, holy and right. (Deut 32:4, 2 Sam 22:31)

G O D: As the Requirement. GOD must be understood as the *requirement*, which is perfection from us. As the author & authority he has the ability & right to demand whatever he finds _____. (1 Pet 1:16, Heb 12:14, Rom 2:15, 3:21, 23)

G O D: As the Judge. GOD must be understood as the *judge* of all humanity. God has the right to rule, judge, condemn and punish. God says he hates sin and will _____ punish sin with death. (Jam 4:12, Eccl 12:4, 2 Cor 5:10)

G O D: As the Justifier. GOD must be understood as the one and only possible *justifier* of all humanity. God has the right to determine & dictate the way to be _____ of wrong & avoid punishment. (Romans 3:22-23, 25-26)

Our job in evangelism is to _____ and show these essential attributes of God in the scriptures. Our job is to _____ the accounts that clearly and directly display these specific traits.

Summary:

1. There are ***certain truths*** that an unbeliever must **hear, understand** and **believe** about **God-Man-Sin-Christ-Salvation** etc. in order to be able to have saving faith.
2. There are many truths that the Bible teaches about **God-Sin-Man-Christ-Salvation** etc. but not all of those truths are ***equally significant*** in the sin-salvation narrative.
3. Our job is to be as thorough and faithful as possible to the Truth, ***without adding unnecessary parts or removing critical parts***.
4. If we are ***missing important elements*** in our sharing of the sin-salvation narrative...there may not be enough truth present for someone to understand & believe.
5. God can and will use other people & other occasions to water the seeds of truth...but ***our responsibility is to be good stewards*** of the true gospel message and not rely on others completing the work.
6. Our job is to ***pin point the accounts in scripture*** that best illustrate/display the truths critical to the sin-salvation narrative...and to ***know those truths and accounts well!***
7. Our job is to ***pin point occasions in our friends lives*** that best provide opportunities to pound home the significant truths in a biblically accurate & orderly way. It may mean 4-6 weeks of ***formal teaching***, it may mean 4-6 months of ***informal sharing***.
8. It appears that ***beginning with the significant truths about God*** is the best place to start in the Sin-Salvation narrative.
9. It appears that the ***most significant truths*** that someone ***must know about God*** in order to understand the message of salvation is God as **Author, Authority, Righteous, Requirement, Judge & Justifier**.
10. The goal in evangelism is to ***start sharing those truths anytime they come up*** in any account in scripture or in real life situations. One of the best accounts, which illustrates all of them is the Creation-Fall account.