

Personal/Relational Evangelism Workshop
2009 EFC Winter Retreat
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Definition of Evangelism

Evangelism is **communicating** the **gospel** of Jesus Christ, in the power of the **Holy Spirit** with the **immediate intent** of leading the unbeliever to faith in Christ, and with the **ultimate intent** of instructing the convert in the Word of God so that he/she can become a mature believer

A High Impact Equation: HP + CP + CC = MI

HP = High Potency
CP = Close Proximity
CC = Clear Communication
MI = Maximum Impact.

HP: Developing Authenticity (meaning sincerity, genuineness, real)

1. Being happy with who you are. In other words, accept yourself. (Psalm 139:13-16)
2. Being honest with yourself about your feelings in life. (2 Corinthians 6:11-13)
3. Being honest about failure to yourself, and if need be, to others.
4. Being genuinely convinced in what you believe as a Christian.
5. Being committed to pleasing God rather than man. (1 Thess 2:1-4)

HP: The Pulling Power of Compassion

- Make room in your heart and in your life for those less fortunate than yourself.
- Imitating Christ's compassion!
- The Good Samaritan

HP: Three Sacrificial Gifts

1. Time
 2. Resources
 3. Consistent, godly lifestyle
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CP: Guidelines for Building Relationships

The BBQ-First Principle:

CP: Establishing Relationships

- Establishing relationships through common interests
- Establishing relationships through common experiences in life (good and bad)
- Establishing relationships by just being a friend, who is there not to "shove" religion down their throat, but rather there as a real caring friend.

CP: Discovering an Approach in evangelism that Fits You

Being Yourself!!! Learning a style that that best fits you.

CC: Principles for Starting a Spiritual Conversion

"Regardless of our individual styles, we've all got to be alert, looking for opportunities to talk to people about Christ. And sometimes that will require taking risks, along with the willingness to be creative in how we raise such critically important topics of conversation"

Three methods for starting a spiritual conversation:

1. The Direct Method: Intentionally present a comment or question about spiritual things
2. The Indirect Method: Intentionally redirect a topic of conversation conversation into a spiritual one.
3. The Invitational Method: Intentionally extend an invitation to a pre-evangelistic or evangelistic event.

Overriding principles for starting a spiritual conversation:

1. Pray hard!
 - i. Pray for wisdom
 - ii. Open hearts
 - iii. Boldness
2. Talk to people individually
3. Pique Curiosity
4. Rely on reciprocal reflexes - questions that make them ask you a question too like "What do you do for a living" you hope they will also ask you.
5. Seize split-second opportunities
6. Don't underestimate an individual's degree of interest. Don't make decisions for somebody else. They may look disinterested or scary but you never know.

CC: making the Message Clear

- Key terms in presenting the gospel: God , Man , Jesus , You .
- Be certain to explain the requirement of faith , or trust in Christ as the means for salvation.
- Be sure to use terminology that will communicate to an unbeliever.
- Adapt the presentation to the background, culture, context of the person you are speaking to. Sometimes this includes giving the backdrop (i.e. OT history) of the Gospel

CC: Breaking Belief Barriers

Even if they do not accept the Gospel, you can pave the way for the next person who shares with them by clearing away some of the barriers they have.

Misconceptions caused by:

Poor examples
Bad teaching
Natural fears

Intellectual Roadblocks:

The historical accuracy of the Bible
The logic of the faith
The problem of evil
Christianity versus science

Moral misgivings:

Moral Failures people don't want to own up to.

MI: Crossing the Line of Faith

When the opportunity to present the Gospel arises, you got to take it.

Don't be surprised if they accept: Try not to say "really???"

Follow-up afterwards – It doesn't end at the point of conversion, but our ultimate intent is to teach the new believer so that they may grow and become mature in their faith. Establish the spiritual disciplines they need to do daily and introduce them to a church where they can be fed. This is a vital step! Just like a mother wouldn't stop caring for a baby once it's "out of the womb", we also cannot stop caring for these new born "babes" in Christ.