

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

Matthew 28:16-20; John Chapter 1; Ephesians 4:11-13

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INTRODUCTION:

We can't continue to just pastor the saved and never take the time to reach the lost! Evangelism in today's world is different, not because the gospel has changed, but because the culture has. In previous generations, we could assume that most people had some understanding of Christianity and God, even if they weren't believers. That's no longer the case. Gen Z is growing up in a post-Christian, highly skeptical world where trust is extremely low. This culture is dominated by social media and secular influences. This is a distracted generation with lots of TOYS and very different beliefs. Such as, I believe in the Universe, Love and the Ancestors. Who do they think created the universe, and where is it in the Bible that we are taught to talk and summon up dead people?

The Gospel doesn't need a rebrand, but the way we share it needs a rethink. Gen Z isn't looking for a sales pitch or surface level faith. They want something real, something true, something that actually changes lives. Evangelism isn't about winning arguments; it's about walking alongside people, listening well, and showing them Jesus. People need to see the way we live, speak, and love. We don't need to have all the answers. We just need to be faithful and ready.

Solutions for Today's Discipleship

1. Schedule 1 weekly conversation with someone far from God.
 - A. Be real.
 - B. Be human/transparent.
 - C. Be present/listen well.
2. Discipleship is Demanding.

- A. Transformation requires rigor.
 - B. Discipling must be an elite priority in our ministry along with prayer (1 Corinthians 4:15).
3. Discipleship isn't just transactional, it's relational.
4. Talking Points
- A. Evangelism is more than just presenting facts!
 - B. Ask the individual do you know your purpose in life?
 - C. Do you know where to find your identity?
 - D. Do you feel lost?
 - E. What is your heart's deepest question?
- Let them know the Gospel is not just true; it's better than all the alternatives. Show how the world makes sense of today's reality in a way that secular and world views cannot.
5. Focus on the person of Jesus, not just Christianity as a system.
- A. People can be skeptical about organized religion/church. But that's different from rejecting Jesus Himself. People can find Jesus compelling apart from everything else. Church may have hurt some or failed some, but Jesus has never let anyone down.
 - B. Today's generation doesn't think of themselves as sinners in need of salvation. Today's culture tells them they're fundamentally good. We must show them that sin isn't about just breaking rules of bad behavior. It's rejecting our Creator and building our lives apart from Him. Let them know they can't build their identity on success and friendships, because in the end they'll experience heartbreak. Only Jesus can offer an identity that is unshakeable!
6. Discipleship must be truthful and gracious.
- A. Sometimes we can be too aggressive and too soft. Jesus was full of grace and truth (John 1:14). He never compromised the truth, but He also never used truth as a weapon.
 - B. If evangelism feels like winning an argument instead of lovingly guiding someone towards life, we are doing it wrong. Remember, discipleship is a process, not a movement. Take your time with people and be patient (I Corinthians 3:6-7).
7. Team Ministry.
- A. It's imperative that not only do we work together, but we support each other as best we can because we are all on the same team. When Jesus started His ministry one of the first things He did was put together a team called disciples. When Jesus fed the 5,000, He only blessed the bread. He didn't organize the crowd, and He didn't collect the leftovers; His team did. Leaders bless the bread then let it go!

- B. Have you ever heard this statement, 'That's not my job!' My father, Lloyd Moss, used to say, 'If it falls under the church/buildings roof, it's your job to care.' He would say you're not above noticing the trashcan, restrooms dirty and need of supplies. Fix it or tell someone. So, if you're above noticing, you're not a leader, and my dad called them former employees. If you're too big to serve, you're too small to lead!

Finally, this generation may be skeptical, but they are also searching. They are longing for truth, identity, and purpose. And, we have the answer; not because we're smarter, but because we have received God's grace. Instead of expecting immediate results, commit to long-term, faithful presence. Keep showing up, keep listening and keep pointing them to Jesus.