

Speak a Good Word for Jesus - Affirmation Evangelism

Introduction:

1. The Epistles present a puzzling situation.
2. They say very little about personal evangelism.
3. How do we account for this?

I. The Puzzling Epistles

A. Paul was very effective as an evangelist.

1. He established and strengthened many churches.
2. However, he has little to say about teaching others (II Tim. 2:2 a rare exception).

B. There is, however, an area of emphasis that is found in all of Paul's writings, the emphasis of Christlike living.

1. Titus 2:3-10
2. Philippians 1:27; 2:5
3. Ephesians 4:11-16
4. Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:18
5. Romans 8:9, 29; 4:8
6. Ephesians 3:16-17
7. I Corinthians 2:16; II Corinthians 3:18
8. Galatians 2:20; 4:19

II. The Nature of Affirmation Evangelism

A. Evangelism is not just an activity; it is a way of living.

1. Matthew 28:18-20
2. II Corinthians 5:14-15

B. A natural approach is God's desired approach

1. I Peter 3:15
2. I John 1:7

C. Jesus used this "method."

1. John 3:1-15
2. John 4:3-42

D. We must be careful that we do not become unbiblical in our strategies for evangelism.

1. We must reflect on what God is demonstrating to us in the Bible about evangelism.
2. Only God's methods will accomplish God's purpose.

III. Affirmation in the Church

A. The church must remember that Israel, God's Old Covenant people, turned what should have been beautiful into something ugly (Rom. 2:24).

B. God has entrusted the church with the gospel.

1. First, however, the church must become something (Eph. 4:15-16; I Pet.

2:9, 12; Matt. 5:14-16).

2. We must not spread the truth in a way that does not come from transformed hearts.
- C. The church is an outpost of heaven.
1. Worldly ways have taken people far from God.
 2. A picture of what is good is much needed.
- D. God's people are to model the values of the kingdom.
1. For 2000 years the pendulum has swung between isolation and compromise in the way the church has reacted toward the world.
 2. We must not remove our influence from the world (Matt. 5:16).
 3. We must not compromise and therefore join the world (John 17:15).
 4. Jesus combined a radical separation from sin with a radical association with sinners that made the kind of difference God was interested in attaining.
 5. Our generation could be the most productive in history (Eph. 3:20-21).
 6. The Karns congregation could become the most productive in history.

Conclusions:

1. Christlikeness will bring success in all that we do.
2. The most capable personal workers are those who are living lives of dedication to Christ.