TEN MARKS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

MARK 5: EVANGELISM

Evangelism, in its simplest definition, involves telling people the good news about Jesus Christ – His life, death and resurrection, and their need to repent of their sins and believe in Him. This is one of the highest purposes that Christ gave the church.

1. WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

Evangelism is an act of love that involves telling others the "evangel," that is, the gospel. In order to do this, you must tell them that:

- God is holy (1 John 1:5) and the creator of all things (Gen 1:1).
- All people are sinners who deserve God's righteous, eternal wrath (Mark 9:48; Rom 3:1-10; Rev 14:11).
- Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life, died on the cross to bear God's wrath in the place of all who would believe in him, and rose from the grave in order to give his people eternal life (John 1:1; Rom 3:21-26; 1 Cor 15:20-22; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Tim 2:5; Heb 7:26).
- The only way to be saved from eternal punishment and be reconciled to God is to repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21).

1. WHO SHOULD DO IT:

All believers are called to evangelise to others.

> *Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. (Acts 8:3-4)*
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> *Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. (Acts 11:19-21)*

2. WHY WE DO IT:

We are commanded to:

> *Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (1 Cor 10:32-11:1; see also Matt 28:18-20)*

If we truly grasp the Gospel it will be our desire to see people saved:

> *I am speaking the truth in Christ – I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit – that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. (Rom 9:1-3)*

It brings glory to God, and thereby joy to us:

> *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my*

> *Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:8-11)*

If we live a godly life, we will have to:

> *…but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect… (1 Peter 3:15)*

2. HOW SHOULD WE EVANGELISE?

A. OUR MANNER:

We should evangelise honestly:

> *We have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practise cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Cor 4:2)*

We should evangelise urgently:

> *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God… Behold, now is the favourable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Cor 5:20, 6:2b)*

We should evangelise prayerfully:

> *Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. (Rom 10:1)*

We should evangelise clearly:

> *Pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. (Col 4:3-4)*

B. OUR MESSAGE:

We should use the Bible in our evangelism:

> *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures…" (1 Cor 15:3-4)*

Our content should provoke self-reflection in our listeners:

> *"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:36-37)*

Warning: Never confuse the results of evangelism with evangelism itself. To evangelize is to announce the Good News of salvation irrespective of the results of that announcement. (see 2 Corinthians 2:15-16)