

## Evangelism

What do humans look like when God is not in their lives? It is emptiness. To be separated from God is to be separated from life itself. God offers life to each one of us individually. Sin is also death. Death and sin go hand in hand. When I see a person who has turned their back on God, who has chosen to live a life of sin and death it can be hard for me to see them as I was not so long ago and try to reach out to them. Part of me wants to distance myself from all the negative aspects of living like that while another part of me wants desperately to reach out to them and scream until they have woken up and see what God wants for them.

How do we Love the enemy? We have to in order to be able to reach out to the lost and bring them lovingly back into God's fold. I try to think of what the life of the lost is like. There is fear of death, uncertainty about life, and right and wrong is a matter of perspective. The only things to strive for are empty and don't fill the hole inside. How can you not have sympathy for a person living in that world? How can you not want to hold them close, lead them out of that world, and show them God's Love? That is how I try to remind myself to Love the lost when they frustrate me, or use me, or lie to me. Only God's Love in me can do that.

Some times I hear the people say the church must remain relevant to reach out to the lost. It seems to be used to encourage the body of Christ to look more like the world around us but with a "churchy twist". But we can't fight fire with fire. We can't beat Satan at his game. If we are new creations in Christ then how can we look like the world around us? If the old us is dead and we do not live but Christ lives in us then how can that look like the world around us?

The best evangelism is serving Christ with the gifts you have been given. We will all bring the lost to Christ in unique ways. God can work with us the way He made us. I know some people who are great at talking to strangers and hitting the awkward conversations right off the bat. Myself, I tend to be a slower mover. I don't hide who I serve but would rather be an example and let the other person approach me with questions. I suppose you could call that "seeker friendly". The thing to remember is that the lost are watching us. They are looking all around them trying to find something solid, real, and everlasting whether they know it or not. When we are rushed, busy, distracted, perturbed and are approached by a stranger we need to remember that this may be a lost sheep looking for solid ground. The solid ground that is our strength. Our lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 4:18-22: Walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers: Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. He said to them, **"Come after me, and I will make you fishers for men."** They immediately left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them. They immediately left the boat and their father, and followed him.

We don't know what plan God has for each of us. We don't know what roads he will take us on to grow us into the people we are to become. What we do know, is that God is forever faithful and He knew us before we were born. He does have a plan for each and every one of us and He wants what is best for us. That includes those who were raised knowing Christ and those who had to meet him later in life.