



Evangelism 1

Cloverdale FPC

1. **The great commission** - John 20:21-22
2. **The need for the Holy Spirit's power.** In the OT the Holy Spirit is spoken of as the breath of God. Gen. 2:7.

Evidence alone will not convince sinners of their need nor of the Lord's mercy to their souls. John 3:5-7, 27. This is very humbling and so is evangelism. Education, social endeavours and even Bible instruction will not convert depraved sinners. John 6:44

3. **The starting point of evangelism** is to acknowledge the natural depravity of the human heart. Sinners are not just ignorant, disinterested and making wrong choices. They are willfully biased against God, they are at enmity with God (Rom. 8:7).
4. **Man centred evangelism** will work from the perspective that man is inherently capable of making the right choice when he is informed and persuaded. Such evangelism tends to use high pressure tactics or lower the standard of God's demands for conversion ignoring the need for conviction of sin, confession of Christ with a sense of awe reverence and fear of God.
5. **God centred evangelism** operates from the program God has decreed and the commands he has given to His church to preach, baptize and make obedient disciples by depending on the power of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).
6. **God centred evangelism doesn't work against God's purposes**, but enters into the program of God who is filled with grace toward sinners. Knowing that God elects, calls, justifies and keeps sinners unto glory by His sanctifying work, we go forth to evangelize in the confidence that God will work by His spirit according to His own good pleasure. This makes our evangelism to work for the glory of God in the salvation of sinners, for we know that the salvation of sinners is the highest honour to God, both now and for all eternity.
7. **God centred evangelism recognizes and seeks the power of the Holy Spirit to convict and convert** sinners through God given means of witnessing – prayer, preaching, teaching, warning.
8. **Conviction alone is not conversion.** Examples are: - Pilate – Felix, Acts 24:24 - King Agrippa Acts 26:28.

Ernest C. Reisinger stated:

The Spirit's process in translating a lost soul from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son consist of three steps or stages. These steps are not always discernable in time or in our experience but we can set them out separately from the Scriptures for study and for our understanding. They are:

1. Convincing the conscience of sin and misery.
2. Enlightening the mind.
3. Renewing the will.

No one is truly converted if he had not been convinced of sin, if his mind has not been enlightened, and his will not changed. These three things may greatly differ as to:

1. **Extent** - of conviction and enlightening – some may know very little, yet be truly converted and often great conviction come after conversion.
 2. **Duration** - there is not a given length of time as to conviction, or a given number of days or weeks for enlightening of the mind.
 3. **Results** – all true conversions do not produce the same fruit as to the usefulness or the amount of zeal. Study John 16:6-14.
9. **The work of conversion is called the effectual call.** The work of the Spirit draws sinners with gracious power leading sinners to a true knowledge of Christ so that they willingly seek His mercy and fellowship.

Shorter Catechism Q. 67: What is effectual calling?

A. 67: Effectual calling is the work of God’s almighty power and grace,¹ whereby (out of His free and special love to His elect, and from nothing in them moving Him thereunto)² He doth, in His accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ, by His Word and Spirit;³ savingly enlightening their minds,⁴ renewing and powerfully determining their wills, ⁵ so as they (although in themselves dead in sin) are hereby made willing and able freely to answer His call, and to accept and embrace the grace offered and conveyed therein.⁶

1. John 5:25; Eph. 1:18–20; 2 Tim. 1:8–9
2. Titus 3:4–5; Eph. 2:4–5, 7–9; Rom. 9:11
3. 2 Cor. 5:20; 6:1–2; John 6:44; 2 Thess. 2:13–14
4. Acts 26:18; 1 Cor. 2:10, 12
5. Ezek. 11:19; 36:26–27; John 6:45
6. Eph. 2:5; Phil. 2:13; Deut. 30:6

Q. 68: Are the elect only effectually called?

A. 68: All the elect, and they only, are effectually called;¹ although others may be, and often are, outwardly called by the ministry of the Word,² and have some common operations of the Spirit;³ who, for their willful neglect and contempt of the grace offered to them, being justly left in their unbelief, do never truly come to Jesus Christ.⁴

1. Acts 13:48
2. Matt. 22:14
3. Matt. 7:22; 13:20–21; Heb. 6:4–6
4. John 6:64–65; 12:38–40; Acts 18:25–27; Ps. 81:11–12

“When we command men to believe on the name of Christ(“And this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ..., 1John 3:23) we are commanding them to do what no natural man can do apart from God doing something. My point is to show the biblical principle of boxing sinners up to the mercy and power of God; the principle of bowing, not bargaining, This exalts God and puts sinners in the dust.

Properly handled, this is not discouraging to sinners but very encouraging and hopeful. There is a powerful and merciful God in heaven who is ready, able, and willing to do for poor deaf, blind, dead sinners what they cannot do for themselves. This is hope.

When Jesus says a man must be born again, he presupposes that he is spiritually dead. When the apostle Paul speaks of the Christian as a “new creature,” He indicates no spiritual life; thus God must make something *new – a new creation.*” - Ernest C Reisinger