



**Ministers/Spouse Retreat
2017**

Servant Evangelism

Ministers/Spouse Retreat 2017



EVANGELISM

Why does it scare
us so much?



EVANGELISM
is **NOT** a
DIRTY WORD

Making evangelism Good News again

Servant Evangelism Is Only One Club In A Golf Bag



Introduction

Christians today increasingly find ourselves on the margins of our culture...The majority of people in the West have no intention of ever attending church. Most only utter the name of Christ as a swear word.

Introduction

We who love Jesus and grew up in church have lost the home field advantage where the majority of the population had an overall positive posture toward the church. The impact of the church on the West has waned in our lifetime.

Introduction

Chester and Timmis: “Yet many of our approaches to evangelism still assume a Christendom mentality. We expect people to come when we ring the church bell or put on a good service. But the majority of the population is disconnected. Changing what we do in church will not reach them. We need to meet them in the context of everyday life.”

Introduction

- Studies show that even the more conservative estimates indicate well over 100 million in the U.S. do not know Christ and would be considered unchurched, or beyond the reach of established churches.
- Most believers rarely share their faith.

Introduction

Surveys show that only three to five percent of believers consistently share their faith. The influence of Christianity in culture has waned greatly in our lifetime.

What if we discovered a way to communicate the Gospel that was winsome both to the witness and to the lost person?

Introduction

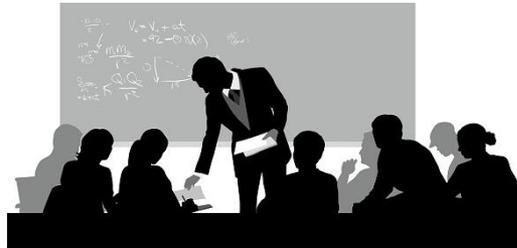
- Traditional models for evangelism typically focus on the special gifting of a few visible evangelists.
- Servant evangelism merely adds intentional acts of kindness to the discipline of intentional, personal evangelism.
- C. N. Bovee said: “Kindness is a language which the dumb can speak, the deaf can understand.”

Introduction

- Surveys and studies indicate that approximately 10% of Christians are naturally gifted in the ministry of evangelism. I hope to be able to present to you today a way of reaching the unchurched that can easily be done by the other 90%.
- We have to get the American church out of our Christian subculture into the real world where unbelieving people live.

Introduction

- If getting people into a classroom to learn a way to share Christ were the answer, we should be way ahead of the curve!



- Here is part of our problem: we spend too much time with each other as Christians!

Servant Evangelism Defined

- Often the word *evangelism* brings to mind a dynamic person speaking to large crowds about Jesus and giving an invitation for salvation.



- Servant evangelism is nothing more or less than a combination of intentional, personal witness with intentional acts of kindness.

Servant Evangelism Defined

- Servant evangelism in a nutshell is, “demonstrating the kindness of God by offering to do some act of humble service with no strings attached”, says Sjogren.
- “It’s doing small things with great kindness to unexpectedly interrupt a person’s day with the love of God.”

Servant Evangelism Defined

- People are generally not stupid – they can tell if we care about them. Most people do not care how much you know about God until they know that you care for them.
- Paul states, “I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Servant Evangelism Defined

Dr. Paul Benjamin in his book *The Equipping Ministry*, states that the average person requires five significant encounters with the gospel before accepting Jesus Christ as Savior.

Servant Evangelism Described

- The focus of servant evangelism is doing acts of kindness for anyone and everyone. *“As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people”* (**Galatians 6:10**).
- For most Christians, doing evangelism is a lot like going to the dentist: No one really enjoys doing it, but it has to be done every once in a while.



Servant Evangelism Described

- I believe that people are often more comfortable *doing* for others than they are simply *talking* to them.
- The reported number-one fear of Americans is talking to strangers!
- I would venture to say that most Christians are cowards when it comes to sharing the gospel with strangers.

Servant Evangelism Described

- Doing humble acts of service causes the world to notice our lives and to listen to our message.
- The entire Church is falsely looked upon as beggars and hustlers. Always looking to get something for nothing.
- Servant evangelism is intentionally evangelistic, but not coercive.

Servant Evangelism Described

- Kind actions, however, do not themselves constitute evangelism.
- Evangelism includes the verbal communication of the gospel.
- Failing to tell people the truth, including the truth about sin and judgment, when the opportunity avails itself is actually cruel.

Servant Evangelism Described

- Serving others was a hallmark of Jesus' earthly ministry. The simple act of Jesus washing the disciples feet in John 13 is one of the more defining expressions of His earthly ministry.



Servant Evangelism Described

- *“Do you understand what I am doing? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because it is true. And since I, the Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. How true it is that a servant is not greater than the master. Nor are messengers more important than the one who sends them. You know these things—now do them! That is the path of blessing” (John 13:12-17; NLT).*

Servant Evangelism Described

- **Matthew 20:28** (NKJV), *“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*
- Authentic servanthood provides us with a powerful tool for evangelism!

Busting Stereotypes

- In 2003, a Gallup poll indicated that almost half of U.S. adults do not have “a great deal” of confidence in organized religion.
- The same year, a Barna Research Group study reported that a sample of non-Christian adults ranked evangelicals tenth out of 11 groups evaluated, rating them one place above prostitutes.
- Clearly, the Church has an image problem.

Busting Stereotypes

- Servant evangelism helps to combat negative stereotypes often associated with the Church by allowing people to see the Gospel lived out.
- Many unchurched people feel Christians must earn the right to be heard. Before we share God's words of love with a hurting world, we must first be willing to do deeds of love with the heart of a servant.

Busting Stereotypes

- Mother Teresa: “True acts of love go before God forever as worship to him.” Instead of just telling the gospel, we are bringing the gospel to people.
- Our society expects to be preached at by enthusiastic Christians. It is almost shocking to unbelievers when we break that expectation by offering simple, practical demonstrations of God’s love.

Busting Stereotypes

- Doing kindness, Sjogren says, draws curiosity. “It’s more of a ‘show-me’ thing than a ‘tell-me’ thing,” he explains. “People are really tired of being told. They are not interested in a message of words but are very interested in messages of works and demonstrations.”

Busting Stereotypes

- Keith Giles: True compassion is something you cannot argue against,” he says. “People who are resistant to the Gospel are open to works of service and compassion. This becomes a path for them to take Jesus seriously, outside the theoretical framework or intellectual argument.”

Strengths Of Servant Evangelism For Believers

- Not everyone is comfortable walking into a church building, but receiving a free service with no strings attached is harder to resist.

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Strengths Of Servant Evangelism For Believers

BENEFITS FOR THE CHURCH

- First, it is fun!
- Few things are more exciting in ministry than to see a group of students or laypeople washing cars, sharing the gospel, getting wet, and honoring Christ all in one afternoon!

Strengths Of Servant Evangelism For Believers

- Second, servant evangelism involves everyone in evangelism, including families. In many cases, the church has become too individualistic.
- While one person may do the witnessing, everyone takes part in the experience. The person pumping gas or washing a windshield is praying as another witnesses.

Strengths Of Servant Evangelism For Believers

- In a very real way, servant evangelism provides the opportunity for every believer to contribute in a significant manner to the outreach of God's kingdom.
- Third, servant evangelism follows the model of Jesus.
- In his own words, he reminds us in **Matthew 20:28** that “. . . *the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.*”
- Serving is what Jesus did and does.

Strengths Of Servant Evangelism For Believers

- Jesus boldly preached a message of repentance and redemption, while demonstrating the life of a servant. The truth of the gospel spreads more effectively through the vehicle of a servant's life.
- Fourth, servant evangelism allows laypeople to use their creativity to initiate ministry opportunities.

Strengths Of Servant Evangelism For Believers

- Sixth, servant evangelism is winsome.
- Servant evangelism resulted in twice as many opportunities to share the gospel than more traditional approaches.
Please note, this does *not* mean that traditional approaches do not work.

Foundational Principles For Servant Evangelism

- First, participants must be intentionally evangelistic.
- Those who desire to change society must not withhold the redeeming message of Christ. Always look for opportunities to give a verbal witness.
- Second, those participating must genuinely care about people. People are not stupid. They can tell whether you really care for them.

Foundational Principles For Servant Evangelism

- Third, eventually, all participants need training. One of the beauties of servant evangelism is that it does not require one to be a witnessing expert.
- Fourth, never underestimate the role of prayer. Spiritual resources are required for spiritual activity.

How To Begin Servant Evangelism

- ***Learn to Identify Needs***
- We as Christians need to train ourselves to spot needs in other people's lives so we can then minister to those needs, or to think missionally.
- Missional means to think like a missionary, or to see the world through a missionary's eyes.

How To Begin Servant Evangelism

- ***Go Where Needs Are***
- Returning to the example of Jesus in John 4, we can see that Jesus not only identified the needs of the people, but He went to them regardless of how it looked to others.

How To Begin Servant Evangelism

- We need to identify needs and be willing to go to where those needs are, even if it means going into an unpleasant or unfamiliar setting. So many times we avoid the slums and downtown alleys, and focus our witnessing efforts on less abrasive places and people. This was not the approach of Christ.

How To Begin Servant Evangelism

- As Christians, we need to be willing to step out of our comfort zones and interact with cultures that might not be the same as ours. We need to go where the needs are most apparent.
- ***Initiate a Plan***
- ***Be Willing to Stay***
- We need to be willing to forge relationships with people in our spheres of influence .

How To Begin Servant Evangelism

- They need to know that they are not just numbers, and that we are not simply marking off “evangelism” on our own personal list of things to do. Once this happens, people will realize that we care about them individually.
- **Corporately**

How To Begin Servant Evangelism

- Churches are looking for the latest programs or “silver bullets” that will bring instantaneous growth! This type of logic tends to lead congregations to develop the attitude that it is the clergy’s responsibility to accomplish evangelism and church growth.

How To Begin Servant Evangelism

- In most churches it is not unusual to find a church budget, overall structure and prayer list, if one exists, that are heavily focused on meeting the inward needs of the congregation.
- ***Two basic biblical principles to moving the congregation in a strategic direction:***

How To Begin Servant Evangelism

- The first thing we must acknowledge is the basic need to **plow the fields through prayer.**
- **Psalm 126:5 (NASB)** says, *“Those who sow in tears will reap with joyful shouting.”*
- In most cases, prayer lists are filled with local church needs of all kinds, especially physical. The unsaved seem to be completely ignored.

How To Begin Servant Evangelism

- Someone has observed: “In our churches we spend more time praying to keep sick saints out of heaven than we do praying lost people into heaven.” Amen!
- The second basic principle is, **consistently plant the Gospel seed.**



How To Begin Servant Evangelism

- The greatest way to kill the harvest is to ignore the plowing and planting. Look back at **Psalm 126**. It says in **verse 6**, *“He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him”* (NASB).
- Servant Evangelism is a tremendous way to spread Gospel seed.

Servant Evangelism Projects That Work

William Penn: *“If there is any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not deter or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.”*

Servant Evangelism Projects That Work

- All projects are free—no donations accepted! Some services are provided while those being served are away, making cards or printed notes necessary.
- Business card with at least your church or organization's name, address and phone number are highly recommended at all service projects so that people will be able to contact you if they need you in the future.

