

Lifestyle Evangelism (An Evangelism Brushup)

➤ = next PowerPoint Slide

- **Intro: tone = positive (assume doing)**
 - **Acts 8:1-4** first Christians, lifestyle evangelism, scattered, preaching the word
 - **lesson:** Lifestyle Evangelism (evangelism brushup)

- **Evangelism: work of the church and Christians**
 - **Mk. 16:15-16** (cf - **Matt. 28:18-20**) apostles, commission, teach – **our commission**
- - **1 Tim. 3:14-15** church is the pillar and ground of the truth
 - **Eph. 3:10-11** church made know God's wisdom in heavenly places, God's eternal purpose
 - **Eph. 4:16** congregation works together to teach, each do share, grow

- **We use expedient methods to evangelize**
 - **1 Cor. 9:19-23** Paul's example, expedient methods – **methods varied by cultures**
 - **illus. places:** synagogue, marketplace, public assemblies, church assemblies, houses, etc.
 - **illus. methods:** formal orations, preaching, teaching, example

- - **we must use expedient methods to evangelize:**
 - **2 Th. 2:15** hold to apostolic traditions, evangelize the lost by **whatever lawful means works** best for our culture

- - **Col. 4:5** command, walk in wisdom toward unbelievers – **making the most of our time**
- - **Col. 4:6** command, speech seasoned with grace, salt – **know how respond to each person**

- - **What are some expedient methods we use with evangelism?**
 - **flyers:** mailed out, distributed door to door
 - **internet:** email, web sites, print, audio, video soon
 - **Bible studies:** home, church building
 - **gospel meetings**
 - **talk to people:** friends, neighbors, family – in person, phone, letters, email
 - etc.

- **What's the most effective expedients today? – shine our light so people see Christ, invite to church**
 - **Col. 4:5** walk in wisdom, unbelievers, evangelism

- **4 - Harold Comer, most effective today** (gospel preacher, extensively studied church growth)
 - **1st: shine your light:** most converts are **impressed by the good life of a righteous member**
 - **2nd: invite:** invite people and bring to church
 - **3rd: Bible study:** usually one lesson study, will be converted or want to study more or stop
 - **4th: converted:** obey gospel, baptized

- **- 1 Cor. 14:23-24 Paul taught church at Corinth how to be evangelistic**, expedient to prophesy in assembly rather than speak in tongues, so unbelievers would be convicted by word

- **2 - PP: survey by The Institute For American Church Growth**, who asked over **10,000 people** this question: **“What was responsible for your coming to Christ and this church?”**
 - **How can we be the most effective with evangelism?**
 - **repeatedly invite our family, friends, neighbors – illus.: Gerald Scearcy, may take 200 invitations**
 - **make friends, build relationships, invite – illus.: lady pulled over for speeding, made friend, invited wife**

- **We have a great congregation for evangelism!**
 - **Eph. 4:16** each person doing his share, causes **growth** of body

- **- some evangelistic assets in the congregation:**
 - **love:** by which people know we are Christ's disciples (**Jn. 13:35**)
 - **friendly and warm – one of most heard comments from visitors**
 - **members who care about souls**
 - **want to reach out and evangelize**
 - **strong leadership:** elders, deacons
 - **edifying and stimulating assemblies** (worship)
 - **LS weekly, singing, praying, Bible studys**
 - **great teachers, Bible classes**
 - **place where people can learn about God, obey God, grow and mature**
 - **members who care about their work**
 - **diligent, responsible**
 - **facility**
 - **helpful in accomplishing work**

➤ **What can you do to improve?**

- **Rom. 13:8, 9b, 10** be a **good neighbor** (golden rule) – **invite, bring to church**
- **Matt. 22:39** (Jesus asked, greatest commandment) second, love your neighbor as yourself

- - **Lk. 10:30-37** be a “**Good Samaritan**” – **have mercy and compassion** on others, souls, act (vs. 33, 37)
- **compassion: sympathetic consciousness of others' distress** together with a **desire to alleviate** it (Webster)
 - **mercy: provide for the needs** of people, that they **can't provide for themselves**
 - **compassion and mercy work together:**
 - **compassion is the feeling that motivates** us to action
 - **mercy is the action**

- **illus.:**

- **theology students put to the test** – research by Darley and Batson at Princeton in 1973
 - group of theology students was **told that they were to go across campus to deliver a sermon** on the topic of the **Good Samaritan**
 - as part of the research, some of these students were **told that they were late and needed to hurry**
 - along their route across campus, Darley and Baston had **hired an actor to play the role of a victim** who was coughing and suffering
 - **90% of the "late" students** in Princeton Theology Seminary **ignored the needs** of the suffering person in their haste to get across campus
 - on **several occasions**, the seminary student going to give his talk on the parable of the Good Samaritan **literally stepped over the victim** as he hurried away
 - **application:**
 - **sometimes we are so busy with life, we neglect** to care for lost souls – **mercy, compassion**
 - **sometimes we are in such a hurry to teach the world, we ignore family and neighbors** who are lost

- **illus.:**

- **9-year-old Mak Shilist, critically ill with brain tumor, Make-A-Wish Foundation gave wish**
 - **most kids** wish to meet a celebrity, shake the hand of the president, go to Disney World, etc.
- **Mak wanted to leave something for friends – rock-climbing wall** on school playground
 - **community pitched in, wall built**
- **principle of 600-student school in Ellisville made video** of students climbing the wall, talking
 - **rushed video to hospital, showed to Mak, who died the next day**, April 9, 2004
- **application: mercy and compassion is putting other people's needs before our own**
 - **Good Samaritan:** put needs of beaten man before His own: time, \$
 - **Mak** put desires of friends before his own, climbing wall at school
 - **theology students** didn't put needs of others before their own
 - **What kind of person are you? What kind of person am I?**

- **illus.: cross analogy**

- **wages of sin death**
- **imagine someone you know, think probably lost, on a cross, pain and blood**
- **you have what can save them - gospel, church – Will you take it to them? - help them? - teach them?**
- **if they obey gospel, crucified with Christ, baptized, no longer on cross, note nailed**
 - **Paid in full with the blood of Jesus**

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **What can you do? – do more of these**

- **walk in wisdom toward those who are outside** – speech seasoned with grace, salt
- **continue praying:** evangelistic efforts, individual and church
- **continue shining your light**
- **continue inviting: friends, family, neighbors repeatedly** – bring them, sit with them
 - **may take 100s** of invites before accept – **lifestyle evangelism**
- **continue studying / talking with others**
- **continue doing your part** as a member of this church
- **continue to have mercy and compassion** for lost souls – **motivation**

➤ - **inv.:** must be faithful Christian before you can reach others - if you know what to do. . . . - If you don't know what to do. . . .

- **# 598, You Never Mentioned Him To Me**