

HOW TO BUILD AN EVANGELISTIC
CHURCH

Text: *matt 28:18-20*

a different kind of message

INTRODUCTION: I am speaking about the most important thing in the world--the winning of lost souls to Christ. In God's balances one soul weighs more than the entire world of material things. To overestimate or exaggerate my subject is beyond the capacity of man.

① The task of evangelism belongs to our church. There are not two kind of churches in the New Testament. All the New Testament churches were evangelistic churches.

It is the Iron for Churches that are anemic.
② New Testament evangelism is the answer to the problem of anemic Christianity and closing churches. When churches lose their interest in the evangelization of their own community and the world at large, they are doomed. When we substitute the easier programs of entertainment, fellowship, food and comfortable worship, we are writing our own death warrant as a church of the living God.

③ Evangelism will bring back life, power, purpose and passion to this church. It will build up attendance, increase interest and enthusiasm, cleanse our church from worldliness, raise the level of spiritual life, enlist the people in spiritual service and worship, bring in more money, and hold the young people in line. It is God's answer to the needs of our church. Our church is lacking in vitamin deficiency: lack of vitamin E: evangelism.

I. OUR CHURCH WAS MEANT TO BE EVANGELISTIC.

1. This is seen in the origin of the church: Its origin is in the mission of Jesus. He came to seek and save the lost.

2. It is seen in the first leaders of the church: called to be fishers of men.

3. It is seen in the marching orders of the church: Matt. 28:18-20. This is, pure and simple, a command to win men to Christ.

4. It is seen in the first church service on the day of Pentecost.

5. It is essential to growth. We cannot win the world through revivals. The Church must work at the task seven days a week, every week, every month, every year until Jesus comes. Christ's program for the church is an evangelistic program. If our church does not constantly seek to win men to Christ and enlist them in service it has missed the mark of God's purpose, and deserves a quick death.

a "going church" is a "growing church"

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*a church does not drift toward evang. but
away from it.*

II. HOW TO BUILD AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH.

→ Definition of an evangelistic church: A church which from the pulpit to the ~~par~~ is trying to get people to have an experience with Christ. *Primary Dept*

① The church must be consecrated to evangelism--means to fill the hand--shoe salesman looks at people's shoes, etc. Christian seeks to learn their spiritual condition.

② There is only one way to build such a church--lead every organization to be evangelistic. No organization of the church has a right to exist whose supreme and central purpose is not the winning of the lost. The entire program of the church must be aimed at winning souls to Christ and at building up souls in Him.

A. THE PASTOR'S PLACE:

Lead, be followed -

B. THE DEACON'S: Start here--they are the most important leaders in our church. *would not change the deacons in our church.*

① Much should be expected of the deacon's. They should have a conscience against worldliness. A deaconship whose lives do not differ from the lives of the worldlings will never win the lost to Christ, but will be a positive hindrance to all evangelism. Deacons must be good, pure, clean and consecrated men. The unspiritual and unevangelistic should not be deacons--they cannot refuse to attend to the vital matter of soul-winning.

② Every deacon ought to be a soul-winner, and can be if he tries. Out of the seven deacons of the first church, two became great, unordained evangelists. It is not a position of prestige and power, but one of service.

Their QUALIFICATIONS set them forth as soul-winners. Original duties: (1) Serve tables: service. *meaning of work*
(2) Win souls

1. "Honest report--" Acts 6:3--This is the word for witness; right kind of reputation to influence men.
2. "Full of the Holy Ghost--" Already filled; normal then. Purpose of the filling is for witnessing. They were endued with power for winning men.
3. "Full of wisdom--" Tact and right approach with men.
4. "Full of faith--" inner attitude which enables them to be conquerers in field of soul-winning; unbelief curbs a Christian.

5. I Tim. 3:8--"Grave, honest, no wine, not greedy--"
Their office destroys them if they are not soul-winners because they handle so much money.

6. Knowledge of God's doctrine; Bible--I Tim. 3:9.

All of these qualifications indicate that there is more required of deacons than the mere handling of finances of the church. Christ meant that deacons should be the spiritual cabinet of the pastor and the recruiting officers of the church.

There followed David, a "band of men whose heart God had touched." God gives us a band like that.

C. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. This is a necessity for an evangelistic church.

1. Its importance: best aid in soul-winning, most fruitful field.

(1) It is an enlistment agency: SBC baptisms grow in proportion to S. S. enrolment. Three steps:

- a. Into S.S.
- b. Into preaching service
- c. Into Christ.

(2) It is an evangelistic agency: 1 out of 3 are won in average S.S. class. 80% of total baptisms come from SS. Of those not in S. S. one out of 240 are won.

Ill--First, Dallas, and Scofield.

2. How to build an evangelistic Sunday School.

(1) Begin with superintendents.

- a. Love lost
- b. Faithful to task.
- c. Relation to teachers:
 - ✓ meet with them and check their evangelistic prospect and see if they are working.
 - ✓ Have list of every unsaved and unchurched in His department and seek to win them.

(2) Teachers

a. Must be concerned: A teacher has not necessarily performed his full duty when he has maintained discipline and taught the lesson. He must have as the guiding star of all his pupils their salvation. Know the plan of salvation and press it home.

Without love for the lost, he has no right to teach.

✓ A teacher can stand between class and God.

- b. Must know the condition of the lost in class.
- c. Council with parents of lost children.
- d. Visit.

If you are not willing to be a soul-winner you ought to stop teaching.

D. VISITATION EVANGELISM

Reasons:

1. It is Biblical.

- (1) Jesus sent out the 70 in pairs; sent out 12; more than 20 times it is recorded that Jesus visited in homes.
- (2) Apostles: Paul in Acts 20:20.
- (3) Early Church: Acts 5:42.

2. The large number who will never attend Church.

- (1) The only way to reach them is visitation.
- (2) Towns are wildernesses of spiritual ignorance-- false conceptions of church, etc.

3. Uses all members.

4. It is direct: Goes where they are; where the need is the greatest; brings you nearer the people.

*"daily in every house."
only 3 pairs
lost 7 foot
every attend*

they are pre-occupied -