Why We Are Not Involved In Evangelism

Intro: The church is to be evangelizing the world. Yet, most Christians are not engaged in this vital area of work. In this lesson I want us to study why we are not involved in evangelism. First we must realize that evangelism is the work of the church.

I. EVANGELISM
   A. Comes from the Greek word *euangelizo* (εὐαγγελίζω).
      1. It literally means to bring or announce glad tidings or good news. It is used of any message designed to cheer those who receive it.
      2. In a spiritual context, it refers to the bringing of glad tidings or good news concerning salvation.
   B. We are to be about the business of taking the good news or glad tidings concerning salvation to others.
      1. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 19 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
      2. Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 15 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   C. Notice some reason we are not involved in evangelism?

II. FEAR
   A. Fear can be one of the most powerful forces against us (cf. the phobia’s many have).
   B. Of rejection
      1. It has ever been true that the majority of people will reject God’s Word.
         a. Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”
         b. As one goes through the book of Acts, he cannot help but be impressed with the majorities rejection.
      2. This fear of rejection, being turned down, has stopped many from taking the gospel to others.
   C. Of persecution
      1. Those who hate the light and love darkness have always persecuted the right, and will continue to do so.
         a. John 15:18-20 “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”
         b. 1 John 3:13 “Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.”
         c. Time after time Paul was persecuted for teaching God’s Word.
      2. When we teach the gospel, then they will persecute us.
      3. This fear of being persecuted has stopped many from teaching the gospel to others.
   D. There is no need to fear.
      1. Rom. 8:15 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”
      2. 2 Tim. 1:7-8 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God”
3. Heb. 13:5-6 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

III. INDIFFERENCE (APATHY)

A. This attitude
1. It is basically, “I don’t care.”
2. While some may care, yet they do not have enough concern to do anything about it.
3. This was the problem with the Laodiceans; Rev. 3:15-16 “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”
4. This causes many to stay at home and never do any evangelism.

B. We must:
1. have a concern for the lost.
   a. The disciples once asked Jesus, “carest thou not that we perish?” (Mark 4:38 “And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?”)
   b. Jesus had such care for the lost that he willingly died upon the cross for us.
   c. Rom. 9:3 “For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:”
2. be zealous for the Lord.
   a. Gal. 4:18 “But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.”
   b. Tit. 2:14 “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

IV. LACK OF PROPER MOTIVATION

A. We do not mean that there is not proper motivation given, only they as individuals do not have the proper motivation.

B. God’s Word commands it.

C. Realize that people are lost without the gospel.
1. 2 The. 1:7-9 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
2. Mat. 7:21 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”

D. We have lost the reality of hell.
1. Hell is a real place of torment.
   a. Mat. 25:30 “And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
   b. Mat. 25:41,46 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”
   c. Luke 16:23-24 “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.”
   d. Rev. 20:15 “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”
2. Hell for those in the world.
   a. Rom. 2:8-9 “But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;”
   b. Heb. 2:3 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”
   c. Heb. 10:27-29 “But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. 28 He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: 29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”

3. Hell for those who do not teach the gospel to others.
   Song: You Never Mentioned Him To Me by James Rowe
   When in the better land before the bar we stand, how deeply grieved our souls will be;
   If any lost one there should cry in deep despair, “You never mentioned Him to me”
   O let us spread the word where’er it may be heard, Help groping souls the light to see,
   That yonder none may say, “you showed me not the way,” “You never mentioned Him to me”
   A few sweet words may guide a lost one to His side, Or turn sad eyes on Calvary; So work as days go by, that yonder none may cry, “You never mentioned Him to me”
   Refrain
   “You never mentioned Him to me, you helped me not the light to see; You met me day by day and knew I was astray, Yet never mentioned Him to me.”

Conclusion: Are you involved in evangelism? If not, then the souls of others will be upon your head (Ezek. 33:7-9 “So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. 8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”) Begin today teaching the sweet story of salvation to all those you come in contact with.