

## Stop Sharing the Gospel

(Mark 16:15)

- Introduction:
1. Words matter.
  2. Words convey thoughts and nuances.
  3. Ills. of a Pitching coach – Toss the ball or work the corners, change up speed, pound inside, etc.
  4. Ills. “Come Here” – meander, hurry, or run?

### I. What Are We To Do With The Gospel?

- A. Into our hands the gospel is given – but what are we to do with it?
- B. Let’s just look at the words the Bible uses.
  1. Proclaim it – Luke 8:39.
  2. Preach it – Mark 16:15.
  3. Present it – 1 Corinthians 9:18.
  4. Declare it – 1 Corinthians 15:1.
  5. Communicate it – Galatians 2:2.
  6. Make it known – Ephesians 6:19.
  7. Defend it – Philippians 1:17.
  8. Speak it – 1 Thessalonians 2:2.
  9. Expound it – Luke 24:27.
  10. Impart it – 1 Thessalonians 2:8
- C. Yet the dominate way we speak of evangelism today – almost exclusively – is “sharing” and it isn’t listed in the Bible.
- D. This is where words matter.
  1. Does our dominate way of speaking about evangelism sell the gospel short?
  2. Sharing typically involves giving something to someone who wants it.
    - a. Children share their toys with another child who wants them.
    - b. Cooks share their recipes with others who want them.
    - c. Friends may share an evening together because they want to spend time together.
  3. But that’s just it...very few people are asking for what we possess – the gospel, and that’s where our verbiage can have an impact on our evangelism, or lack thereof.
  4. If the only word we use to describe evangelism is “sharing,” then maybe we’re frequently silent because the people around us don’t want what we have to share.
- E. But if we would open our minds to the biblical verbiage, we would see that the gospel isn’t to be shared, it to be proclaimed, preached, and declared.
- F. Evangelism is more than the sharing of ideas, it is an authoritative presentation, coupled with gentleness and respect.

- G. Some may say, it's better to lay low, and just maintain your presence in the community, and to try to quietly make a difference.
  - 1. But this is not what you see in the book of Acts (Acts 4:20; Acts 7; etc.).
- H. Our choice of terminology may lay bare our desire to receive the reward of being a Christian without the risk of being a Christian.

## II. Suggestions for Evangelism

- A. Be willing to offend.
  - 1. There is an inherent offense to the gospel (Galatians 5:11).
  - 2. It calls us sinners and condemns us as guilty of the blood of Jesus.
  - 3. This truth will offend some, but move others to repent (Acts 2, 7).
- B. Be willing to call for a response.
  - 1. This is why we extend an invitation at the end of every sermon.
  - 2. Acts 26 – Paul's encounter with Agrippa.
- C. Be bold.
  - 1. (Acts 4:29).
  - 2. (1 Timothy 1:7).

- Conclusion:
- 1. Friends, share the gospel in those rare moments when someone wants what you have, but in the meantime, preach, proclaim, defend, expound, and make know the gospel to the world.
  - 2. Also, spend time thinking about how to put this lesson into practice. What are some ways we can proclaim the gospel to others.
  - 3. The goal is not to reserve the gospel for our friends and those who want it, but to proclaim it to all, and let them decide for themselves.
  - 4. May God grant us the boldness we need to accomplish our task.