

# LOVING JESUS INSIDE OUT

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Romans 10:1, 14; Acts 1:8

## INTRODUCTION

We are able to say that “I Love My Church” because we love the Lord. And Jesus said that *if* we love Him, we *will* keep His commandments (John 14:15), not only a great privilege...but a sober duty and command. Why is the activity contained in the second part of Acts 1:8 so avoided by so many in the church? Why is it the cause for many to feel such guilt?

## I. WHAT EVANGELISM IS NOT

### A. It is not a program, or a technique.

- There is no such thing as a “how-to” guide.
- Such notions are why so many are turned off at the subject of sharing our faith.

### B. It is not the exclusive duty for those “gifted in evangelism.”

There is nothing in Scripture that ever indicates the sharing of the gospel to unbelievers to be anything other than a universal call and command to all Christians.

The chief agents in the expansion of Christianity appear not to have been those who made it a profession or a major part of their occupation, but **men and women who earned their livelihood in some purely secular manner and spoke of their faith** to those whom they met in this **natural fashion.**”

~ *Kenneth Scott Latourette*

### C. Evangelism is not the holding of revival services!

- A common misconception in the past 50 years has been to think that evangelism happens with the initiating a series of church meetings – 3 or more consecutive nights of meetings – and calling it a REVIVAL.
- Now, evangelism CAN happen at such a meeting. But that is not what defines evangelism.

### D. Evangelism is not merely sharing our personal testimony.

- Our testimony is powerful, no doubt. But it is not the sharing of our personal experience that completely defines evangelism.

## II. UNDERSTANDING EVANGELISM

Paul’s heart’s desire...to see the Gospel preached.

## **A. The context for evangelism is the LOSTNESS of people.**

Defining Evangelism: “It is a work of communication in which Christians make themselves mouthpieces for God’s message of mercy to sinners. Anyone who faithfully delivers that message, under whatever circumstances, in a large meeting, in a small meeting, from a pulpit, or in a private conversation, is evangelizing.”

~ J.I. Packer

And – what is that message of mercy? It is the **GOSPEL** – and the process of sharing of it with others.

## **B. Evangelism is fueled by PRAYER for the LOST...**

Paul not only had a heart for the lost – he didn’t stop there. He actively PRAYED for the lost!

“When you pray for unconverted people, you do so on the assumption that it is in God’s power to bring them to faith. You entreat Him to do that very thing, and your confidence in asking rests upon the certainty that He is able to do what you ask. And so indeed He is: this conviction, which animates your intercessions, is God’s own truth, written on your heart by the Holy Spirit.”

~ J.I. Packer

“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.”

~ Charles Spurgeon

## **C. Evangelism is the SHARING of that message to the LOST.**

Here is the sobering truth...part of God’s sovereign plan is for our friends and neighbors to HEAR the Gospel...from us.

So many of us grew up in churches where our experience was backwards...we were waiting for some evangelist to “bring life to the church...”

But it is just the other way around. God wants us to be consumed with the blaze of His love...and then others will gather around...to be warmed by the fire.

“Evangelism does not produce life in the church. Rather, life in the church produces evangelism... When such reformation takes place by the power of the Holy Spirit...evangelism will be irresistible and spontaneous. The people will not need to be bullied into it. Nobody will be able to stop them doing it!”

~ Erroll Hulse

### **APPLICATION:**

*Practice the sharing of Gospel in 1 minute...know its core aspects.*