

Church of the Promise

350 Hwy 165
Iowa, La. 70647
337-582-2090

Infusion

Become

Believe

Belong

Befriend

#5 The Ways of
Evangelism (Part 2)

INFUSING THE LIFE FOUND IN CHRIST
THROUGH FAITH IN GOD'S VITAL PRECEPTS,
MAKING EVERY MEMBER WHOLE
SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY

The Ways of Evangelism (Part 2)

Session #5

~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~ **BEFRIEND** ~♦✠♦✠♦✠♦✠♦ ~

Key Verse: *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8 KJV).*

Key Scriptures:

- Psalm 14:3; 19:7; 53:3
- Proverbs 16:5; 20:6
- Romans 2:15; 3:10, 12, 19–20; 7:7
- 1 John 3:4
- Galatians 3:11, 24

Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to identify biblical principles that directly affect the strategy, content, and goal of our evangelistic efforts.

Introduction: Jesus has finished His redemptive mission of suffering, dying on a cross, and being resurrected from the dead. The completion of Jesus’ mission is the basis and the content of the good news of the Gospel. Jesus commissioned His followers (disciples) to take this Gospel to the ends of the earth to every tongue, tribe, and nation until He returns.

In this lesson, we want to recapture some biblical truths that many feel have been lost in this century’s evangelistic efforts. The loss or ignorance of these truths has resulted in a dismal rate of retaining the fruit of many extensive and expensive evangelistic campaigns. That’s because the church as a whole has lost sight of

a basic truth from God that prepares a person to receive the Gospel. Without this biblical truth being properly employed, many persons respond to the Gospel for many unbiblical reasons, resulting in what some have termed “false conversions.” On the other hand, using this truth as a tool can lead the lost to a true conversion that will last a lifetime.

I. The law of God is the lost truth of biblical evangelism.

A. The law converts the soul.

1. Psalm 19 KJV says this in verse 7: “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.”
2. Because God’s law is perfect, it has an inherent power within it to bring conversion.

B. Many Christians do not understand the biblical purpose of the law in New Testament evangelism.

1. They are afraid of the law, quoting Romans 6:15 that “we are not under law but under grace.”
2. Although that is, of course, true, it has also been used as an excuse to allow unbridled liberty in ways that were never meant.

II. God’s law has several functions.

A. The law makes us conscious of our sin.

1. Romans 3:20 NIV says, “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by

observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”

2. In his groundbreaking message “Hell’s Best Kept Secret,” Ray Comfort notes that the word *conscious* refers to knowledge. Therefore, we see that the Bible teaches that it is the *law*, not our gospel presentations, that makes people conscious of their sin. Every person that would truly respond to the Gospel must *first* be conscious of his sin!
3. Romans 7:7 NIV says, “What shall we say, then? . . . Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, ‘Do not covet.’ ”

B. The law confirms our guilt before God.

1. Romans 3:19 KJV says, “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and *all the world may become guilty before God*” (emphasis added).
2. The law of God declares every person “guilty” before God. That is its basic purpose so that we might recognize our need for a savior.

C. The law silences the tongues of the self-righteous.

1. Again in Romans 3:19 KJV, we see the phrase *that every mouth may be stopped* (silenced). When people try to justify themselves, the law stops them

in their tracks, because no one has ever fully kept the law.

2. Proverbs 20:6 KJV says, “Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness.” All people have a built-in tendency to see themselves as good. They judge themselves based upon their own righteousness or the righteousness of others. When they or others are the standard by which they judge, more often than not, they come out okay.
3. However, God gave His law as the perfect standard by which all humanity will be judged. Since God is perfect (Matt. 5:48) and His law is perfect (Ps. 19:7), His standard for acceptable righteousness requires perfection! James 2:10 KJV says, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.” So, even one sin renders us guilty.
4. When people are not aware of their sin and guilt before a holy God, they have a tendency to trust in their own righteousness and to justify themselves based on their own standards of self-righteousness. God gave the law, however, to show everyone that the standard of righteousness He requires is perfection.
5. When people realize that they will be judged by the law and that their self-righteousness falls short of God’s perfect standard, they become conscious of their guilt and inability to save themselves. They then stop trying to justify themselves. Their tongues are silenced.

D. The law is a schoolmaster that brings us to Christ.

1. Galatians 3:24 KJV says “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us unto Christ*, that we might be justified by faith” (emphasis added). The Greek word for “schoolmaster” is *paedagogue* (from which we get our English word *pedagogue*). It refers to a slave who watched over the behavior of the boys of the house aged 6–16 years old. This slave was responsible for seeing that the boys got to the right place or person.
2. While the law cannot save us, it has a God-given purpose to show us that we need to be saved and thus leads us to Jesus as the answer.

III. The law has further truth in it.

- A. The biblical definition of sin is transgression of the law (1 John 3:4).**
- B. The law is good if it used lawfully (1 Tim. 1:8).**
- C. The law was made for sinners (1 Tim. 1:9–10 KJV).**

1. This verse reads as follows: “We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.”
2. Since we are all sinners, the law applies to all of us. We are all lawbreakers.

IV. The law reveals the true state of humanity.

- A. “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23 NIV).
- B. “There are none righteous, no, not one” (Rom. 3:10 KJV).
- C. “Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Ps. 53:3 KJV).
- D. “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27 KJV).

Summary: The law was given by God as a perfect standard to prick our consciences and make us aware of our sin. The law shows us that we are guilty of transgressing God’s commands and deserving of His judgment. Because the law demands perfection, it silences our mouths from justifying ourselves based on our less than perfect righteousness. It then leads us to the quest for a savior who can make us righteous before a holy God. That quest ends when we find Jesus, the only one who ever kept the law perfectly.

Using the law of God as a witnessing tool leads people to first acknowledge their guilt before God. Then they can be receptive to their need for a savior. If we emphasize only what Jesus can do for us without explaining why we need Him, we shortchange people and set the stage for their conversion to be shallow at best and fleeting at worst.

Questions and Discussion Points

1. If you were to die tonight, do you know for sure that you would go to heaven?
2. If you died and arrived at the gate of heaven and God asked you, “Why should I let you in?” what would you tell Him?

3. The apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 13:5 NIV challenges the Corinthians: “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?” Have you ever examined, or tested, yourself to see whether you are truly in the faith? What kinds of questions should you ask yourself to determine the true condition of your soul?

4. How does the law lead us to Christ?

**Principles and ideas from this lesson were adapted from The Way of the Master by Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort (Tyndale House Publishers, ©2004, Carol Stream, Illinois). For more information or to purchase related materials, visit www.wayofthemaster.com.*