

SERIES: Marks of a Healthy Church  
**Mark #5 “A Biblical Understanding of Evangelism”**

## **What Is Evangelism?**

Evangelism is simply telling non-Christians the good news about what Jesus Christ has done to save sinners and urging them to repent and believe. In order to biblically evangelize you must:

- Preach the whole gospel, even the hard news about God’s wrath against our sin.
- Call people to repent of their sins and trust in Christ.
- Make it clear that believing in Christ is costly, but worth it.

## **Where Is It in the Bible?**

Scripture contains both teaching on evangelism (Matt. 28:19-20; Rom. 10:14-17; 1 Pet. 3:15-16) and examples of evangelistic preaching (see Acts 2:14-41, 3:12-26, 13:16-49, 17:22-31). Moreover, any time Scripture speaks of the gospel, it is teaching us what we are to share in evangelism (Romans 1-4 and 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

## **Why Is It Important?**

- When a church has an unbiblical understanding of the gospel, they don’t evangelize, they evangelize in misleading or manipulative ways, or they share a message that’s not the gospel.
- On the other hand, a biblical understanding of evangelism clarifies our role in the mission God has given to the church: we are to preach the good news about what Christ has done and pray that God would bring people to believe it.

## **Evangelism is NOT...**

- Imposing your beliefs on others.
- Your **testimony**
- Apologetics
- Social Justice
- The **results** of evangelism

## **How Should We Evangelize?**

- Be clear.
  - Trust the **power** of the gospel.
- Be Christ-centered.
  - Point people to an encounter with Jesus.
- Be confident.
  - Trust the **work** of the Spirit.
- Be careful.
  - Remember the goal is NOT **decisions**; the goal is **disciples**.
  - We want to convey three things:
    - The decision is **costly**, so consider it carefully. (Luke 9:62)
    - The decision is **urgent**, so make it soon. (Luke 12:20)
    - The decision is **worth it**, so you want to make it. (John 10:10)

## **Riverview and the Urgency of Eternity...**

- Do we realize people’s **condition**?
- Do we possess the heart of **Christ**?
- Do we want our lives to **count**?

## **The Ultimate Question for Personal Evangelism...**

- Will the gospel **stop** with you or **spread** through you?

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