

Priority: Evangelism

I. Why is evangelism a _____?

A. Evangelism is a priority because it is central to the great commission.

Matthew 28:19–20

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

B. Evangelism is a priority because we owe to others the message of the gospel.

Romans 1:14–15

14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

C. Evangelism is a priority because we have been given evangelistic titles in the Bible.

1. A Christian is a servant of the gospel.

Colossians 1:23

if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

1 Corinthians 3:5–6

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

2. A Christian is a steward of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:1

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Acts 20:22–27

22 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. 24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. 25 And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, 27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

1 Corinthians 4:1–2

1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

1 Thessalonians 2:4

4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.

3. A Christian is a herald of the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:11–12

11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, 12 which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

Romans 10:14–15

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

1 Corinthians 1:23

but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

4. A Christian is an ambassador of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20–21

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

II. How does Crossway Church _____ evangelism as a priority?

- A. We must study to know the gospel message well.**
- B. Church leaders must equip the church to evangelize.**
- C. We must live lives that can only be explained by the gospel.**

1 Peter 3:15

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

- D. We must pray about evangelism.**

Romans 10:1

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.

E. We must love sinners as God has loved us.

“The saving of souls, if a man has once gained love to perishing sinners, and love to his blessed Master, will be an all-absorbing passion to him. It will so carry him away, that he will almost forget himself in the saving of others. He will be like the stout, brave fireman, who cares not for the scorch or for the heat, so that he may rescue the poor creature on whom true humanity hath set his heart.” – Charles Spurgeon

F. We must see the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ.

If I don't look for unbelievers and open my mouth to share God's gospel with them, then in effect I will be saying, “God's salvation is not infinitely valuable. It is not absolutely necessary for eternal life and real joy. It is not enough to satisfy the deepest needs in your life. It's beauty is not enough to motivate me to speak of it.” And if I say all this, then I do not believe in the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” –John Piper

1 Corinthians 9:16

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

Do you have **questions/comments** about Crossway's priority of *evangelism* you would like to **discuss with a pastor?**

*** We want to answer your questions! Notes you make in this box at the end of each section can help jog your memory on things to bring up when you meet with a pastor as part of Crossway's membership process ***