

Life Group Study
"Enlightened Evangelism"
Week of May 16th, 2021
Study by Wayne Arcand

This study is in support of Pastor Gerry Lougheed Jr.'s message on "Enlightened Evangelism" on May 16th, 2021. What is evangelism? Do all have the gift of evangelism? How do we become effective in sharing the message of God's love and forgiveness? These are some of the questions we will explore in this study. Evangelism is something we should not be afraid of but something we embrace within the giftedness and character that God made us to be.

Ephesians 4: ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Verse 11 suggests those whom Christ gave himself fall in two groups, the apostles, prophets and evangelists who would be equivalent to today's missionaries and who bring the message of God's love to all parts of the world, and the pastors and teachers who work primarily with a local congregation.

1. What is the primary function of apostles, prophets and evangelists? Look up the definition and discuss the similarities.
2. What is the primary function of pastors and teachers?
3. Discuss what it means to you to be equipped for works of service.
 - a. What are works of service?
 - b. Does this appear to be optional?
 - c. What work of service are you or can you be involved in?
4. Discuss practical ways that the body of Christ can be built up.
 - a. What does it mean to build up the body of Christ?
 - b. What gift or ability has God given you that can be used to build up the body of Christ?
 - c. How do Life Groups fit in the process of building up the body of Christ?
 - d. What attitudes do we have that may prevent us from using our gifts as Christ intended?
 - e. What can I do to improve my attitude?
5. *Ephesians 2:¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
 - a. Note that the "we" includes you and those God has placed around you. Discuss the comfort and encouragement that comes from knowing that.
 - b. What is the importance of the last phrase, "which God prepared in advance for us to do"?
 - c. Read Ephesians 2:10 and then re-read Ephesians 4:11-13
 - i. What is the progression or connection between these two passages.
 1. How does this progression impact me?

Matthew 5:¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

6. As a follower of Jesus, as someone who claims Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we have a God given responsibility to be salt and light. Considering Matthew 5:13-16, discuss:
 - a. What it means to be the ‘salt of the earth’ and the ‘light of the world’?
 - i. How can I be salt and light to those around me?
 - ii. What actions of mine can cause me to lose my saltiness or dim my light?
 1. What impact can that have on my witness?
 - b. What is the result of living a life that brings salt and light into the world?
 - i. Who gets the glory?
 - c. How does this passage relate to Psalm 34:8 *Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.*
 - i. How do we ‘taste and see that the Lord is good’?
7. Connect Matthew 5:13-16 to John 13:³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
 - a. How does obeying Jesus command in John 13:34,35 result in us living out Matthew 5:13-16?

For Reflection:

A recent Barna¹ study revealed that more than six in 10 non-Christians and lapsed Christians (62%) say they would be open to talking about faith matters with someone who listens without judgment—the top quality they value—but only one-third (34%) sees this trait in the Christians they know personally. I believe we can all be judgemental in some areas of our life. As I was writing this study, I was reflecting on those areas of my life where I may be judgemental. I would encourage you to pray and reflect also. Am I being ‘salt and light’? Is the love of Jesus evident in my life that God would receive the glory? Or, by my words and actions, am I causing others to question why they would want to be a follower of Jesus? My prayer for us is that we would be salt and light in our families, our church and our community. What is one action I can take this week that will bring light into some one's life?

To God be the glory for all He is doing and will continue to do in us and through us.

¹ George **Barna** (born 1954) is the founder of The **Barna** Group, a market research firm specializing in studying the religious beliefs and behavior of Americans, and the intersection of faith and culture.