

alone. When one believes this proper gospel message, that belief will express itself in repentance. In this sense, repentance and belief are inseparable.

Repentance is the turning from a life of self-lordship, to one of Christ's Lordship. From a life of disregard for God to a life of submission to God. From a life of self-effort for salvation, to a life resting in the salvation which is in Christ.

Because belief and repentance are so inseparably linked they are often used interchangeably in scripture. Some, through poor Biblical interpretation, have assumed that this means that "repentance" is *the same* as belief and have as a result changed the definition of repentance to be nothing more than a mental assent to the facts of Christ's saviour-hood. This is a dangerous distortion of scripture which damages every aspect of the true Biblical gospel message.

3. The Method

a. Live a transformed life

Our most successful witnessing will be done to those with whom we have an existing relationship because the evidence of our own transformed life authenticates the gospel that we preach.

b. Maintain a lifestyle of prayer

Pray for opportunities to witness. Pray for wisdom when you speak to others and pray that God will help you to maintain a godly testimony which supports your witness.

c. Present the gospel with wisdom and sincerity

Jesus said that we are to be "wise as serpents" and "harmless as doves". Being coarse, abrasive or blunt has no place in sharing the gospel. We must allow the Gospel message itself to be the offense, and not ourselves.

d. Rely upon Scripture as the only authority

God is sovereign in salvation. He draws men to Himself through the preaching of the word of God. (1 Pet 1:23, James 1:18). As such, we should seek to please God through the preaching of a strictly Biblical message and not unsaved men by the preaching of a more palatable message. (1 Cor 1:17-29)



Biblical Evangelism

1. The Foundations of Biblical Evangelism

1. The Motivation

The "royal law" or "law of Christ" is to love _____ with all our heart, soul and mind and our _____ as ourselves.

a. If we love God, we will _____.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Q. A love for God is shown by our obedience to Him. What did Christ command us to do in Matthew 28:19?

b. If we love God, we will want to see Him _____

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Q. Philippians 2:9-11. How should man respond to the fact that God has highly exalted Jesus Christ?

Q. How does this affect God the Father? (v11)

c. If we love our Neighbour, we will _____.

Remember, our neighbours are anyone to whom we can display God's mercy (Luke 10:29-37).

2. The Message

a. It is C _____

The gospel is a call to sinners to forsake their own efforts for salvation and to submit to God. It has always been an unpopular message. Peter, Paul, James and Steven were killed for proclaiming it!

Paul and Barnabas in Lystra:

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

b. It is C _____

Apologetics are wonderful and they have their place, but our main message is a simple one – “Christ Crucified” (1 Cor 1:23).

The central message of the gospel is the person and work of Jesus Christ. Both *Who He Is* and *What He Did*.

We see this in Peter’s first sermon to the Gentiles:

Who He Is

Acts 10:36 The word which *God* sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is _____):

Acts 10:42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the _____.

What He did

Acts 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they _____:

Acts 10:40 Him God _____ the third day, and shewed him openly;

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive _____.

Jesus Christ is Lord and Judge. He died on the cross and rose again, providing remission of sins and thus becoming our Saviour. A gospel message that does not declare both *Who He is* and *What He did*, is not complete.

c. The God-Centered message proclaims God's _____
Hab 1:13 *Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity:

It is only by an understanding of his holiness that we can understand the severity of man’s condition and the separation that exists between us.

d. The God-Centered message reveals man's _____
A Biblical gospel message declares sin to be an offense against a holy God. Man is not basically good, but inherently evil and unable to save himself.

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is _____, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is _____.

e. The God-Centered message declares Christ as _____ and _____.

As Saviour, Christ lived a sinless human life, paid the wages of sin on the cross, and conquered sin and death by His resurrection. As Lord, He is ruler over every aspect of life and every element of creation. His rule as Lord cannot be separated from his role as Saviour.

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the _____, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

f. The God-Centered message calls sinners to _____ and _____ in Christ

John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, the Disciples and Paul all preached repentance (Matt 3:2-8, Matt 4:17, Mark 6:10-12, Acts 26:18-20)

A gospel message that includes God’s holiness, man’s sinfulness, Christ’s lordship and coming judgment, of necessity, also includes repentance.

To believe the gospel means to believe that man is sinful and separated from God, that he is unable to save himself, that he will one day face Jesus Christ as his judge, and that God has provided salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ