

Evangelism Class #1 - Outline

John 4:35

Notes about this class:

1) Hope and Encouragement will prevail!

- Guilt driven evangelism fails.
 - Guilt puts too much pressure on us, makes it an obligation, shames us for being ourselves, and shames us for not using the right method.

2) Discussion is encouraged!

- Evangelism is about people. Shared experiences help us all!
- Do not remove humanity from evangelism.
 - People are physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual creatures, not just spiritual.

Wisdom Required:

- Proverbs 11:30
- Colossians 4:5

Wise People Understand the Times

- 1 Chronicles 12:32
- Esther 1:13
 - Must understand the times if we're going to know and connect with our audience today.
- 1 Corinthians 9:20-23

Understanding the Times

- **Pre-modernism (0-1650)** - Truth and knowledge come from divine authority, God and the church.
- **Modernism (1650-1950)** - With scientific advances, traditional authority sources rejected. Truth and knowledge come from the scientific method and from reason/logic.
- **Postmodernism (1950-present)** - Question everything. Truth comes from one's own interpretation of reality, all influenced by culture and upbringing. Truth may exist outside human consciousness, but we can't really nail it down.
 - **Helpful:** Postmodernism seeks to benefit society by leveling the power structure. Level playing field if there's no authority/power source higher than any other.

9 Results of Modernism/Postmodernism Today:

1. Truth is relative
2. Easily offended by truth claims
3. Belief in God silly and illogical
4. Apathy toward eternal matters
5. Highly skeptical of anything that can't be proven by science
6. Religion believed to be harmful to society.
7. Religious people don't see difference in religions
8. "Christians" don't care about New Testament authority
9. Many believe being a "good person" is key to good life and afterlife
 - Judges 21:25 - No king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Challenge: Don't just understand your audience; empathize with them.