

Evangelism Class #10 - Be Accessible

Refer to J. Mack Stiles chart.

Assignment: Submit any questions you have about evangelism so we can address them.

Accessibility = people have opportunities to come into contact with us. We're accessible. Motivation and equipping is pointless without accessibility.

1 Corinthians 5:9-10

- **Sad truth:** Sometimes it's people in the world we withdrawal from, don't associate with, and hand over to Satan because of their sin. That's NOT what God teaches.
- That was the Pharisees' approach!

Luke 5:29-32 - Jesus drove the Pharisees crazy because He didn't withdraw from sinners; He spent time with them!

- **Key:** Jesus was making Himself accessible to the lost!
- **v. 31** - Doctors MUST spend time with sick people! Why would doctors only hang around those who are well?
- **Application:** If Christians only hang around other Christians, we're like doctors who only spend time with people who are well!

Why we prefer to be around Christians:

- **1) It's encouraging** - We need people of like faith! (hence the church)
- **2) Less risky** - When doctors spend time with sick people, there is risk of getting sick!
 - **1 Corinthians 15:33** - There is risk, but if we isolate, we might have great morals, but we don't give the world around us a chance to know the gospel.
 - Like doctors, we can be aware of the risk and proceed with caution.
- **3) Less messy** - Sick people have disturbing problems to deal with. Doctors could isolate themselves and never have to get their hands dirty, but then the sick won't get well.
- Generally MUCH more pleasant to be with Christians, but "it is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick."
 - **It's worth the risk and the mess and the potential discouragement to reach them with the gospel.**

Important Note: We need to spend time with non-Christians, but without compromising our own integrity or falling into sin.

- We can't go to bars or strip clubs in the name of accessibility.
- Jesus talked to prostitutes about the gospel, but He didn't go to brothels to do it.

How to be Accessible to non-Christians around us:

1. Non-Christians you know

- **Host an event at your home like Matthew did.** Dinner? Book club? Sports game, movie night, game night, BBQ, etc. **Outside the home.** Restaurant or coffee? Sporting event, gym, movie theater or play, hike or bike, garage sale hunting, car shows, etc.
- **Careful:** Don't give the impression, "I'll only spend time with you if you act like a Christian."

2. Non-Christians you used to know

- Social media allows us to reconnect with old relationships. 1) Impresses people when you care enough to re-connect. 2) Built in catch-up factor so nice natural way to talk about God.
- **Careful:** Many marriages destroyed by reconnecting with old flames; don't do that!

3. Non-Christians you don't know

- Put yourself in position to see the same person over and over again, start a hobby/join a club (meetup.com), spend time with our visitors, volunteer work.
- **John 1:14** - Be there as the gospel in the flesh for people!