

EQUIP

Webpage: <https://english.gracebaptistchurch.sg/equip>

What is a healthy church? Why does it matter?

A healthy church...

- Takes God at his word
- Guards and grows the gospel
- Practises biblical leadership
- Practises meaningful membership
- Helps Christians grow
- Prays and goes

I. Conversion

Do you get upset when someone suggests you need to change? If so, why? What does that show about your heart?

What is Conversion?

Acts 20:21

Conversion is literally turning: turning from sinning to repenting of our sins and turning from trusting in ourselves to trusting only in Christ to reconcile us to God.

Why conversion matters

a. Our Spiritual Condition

John 3:19–20

Eph. 2:1

Rom. 3:10

Rom. 3:13

Rom. 3:20

Ps. 51:4

b. We need a new heart

Ezek. 11:19

Jer. 31:33

1 Cor. 2:14

John 6:44

John 3:2–5

c. What must we do?

Joel 2:32

Romans 10:9-10

d. How can we tell?

Galatians 5:19–24

e. Why is it important for the health of the church?

II. Evangelism

Who is the Evangelist?

Romans 10:14

Matt. 28:19-20

What is Evangelism?

- a. Evangelism is not an imposition of our beliefs on others*
- b. Evangelism is not simply a personal testimony*
- c. Evangelism is not the same thing as social action or political involvement*
- d. Evangelism is not simply encouraging positive thinking*
- e. Evangelism is not the same as apologetics*
- f. Evangelism is not to be confused with the results of evangelism*

Matt. 13:1–23

Acts 18:9–10

When you understand that evangelism isn't converting people but that it is telling them the wonderful truth about God, the great news about Jesus Christ, then obedience to the call to evangelize can become certain and joyful.

How we should evangelize

- a. Pray*

Rom. 10:1

b. Tell people with honesty that if they repent and believe they will be saved—but it will be costly

c. Tell people with urgency that if they repent and believe they will be saved—but they must decide now

John 14:6

Acts 4:12

Rom. 10

Heb 4:7

d. Tell people with joy that if they repent and believe the good news, they will be saved

Heb 12:2

2 Cor 4:17

e. Use the Bible

Acts 8

f. Realize that the lives of individual Christians and of the church as a whole are central to evangelism

Matt. 5:16; see 1 Pet. 2:12

John 13:34–35

g. Build relationships with non-Christians

f. Work together with other Christians to take the gospel to those who don't live around any Christians

Matt. 28:18–20

Rom. 10:14–15

Evangelism Is Not Marketing

Coming up next:

3 Mar: Practices biblical leadership

24 Mar: Practices meaningful membership

14 Apr: Helps Christians grow

21 Apr: Prays and goes

Further Reading

- *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* by Mark Dever
- *Conversion: How God Creates a People* by Michael Lawrence
- *Real Change: Conversion* by Bobby Jamieson
- *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus* by Mack Stiles.
- *The Gospel & Personal Evangelism* by Mark Dever
- *Reaching the Lost: Evangelism* by Bobby Jamieson