

SENT: SHARING THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

Session 4 | Brian Chesemore

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I. Introduction

A. Our Recommended Text

Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus
--by J. Mack Stiles. (Crossway Books)

B. Our Study of Evangelism

Week One: The Mission of the Church

Week Two: The Heart of Every Ambassador

Week Three: The Message of Every Ambassador

“The mission of the church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples in churches, that they might worship and obey Jesus Christ now and in eternity to the glory of God the Father.”¹

Two simultaneous discipleship-dynamics should be occurring in the life of every Christian...we should be seeking to win souls to Christ and mature those in Christ, beginning with ourselves.

“Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade.”²

“What do I mean by a culture of evangelism? I mean an expectation that Christians will share the gospel with others, talk about doing that, pray about it, and regularly plan and work together to help each other evangelize. We want evangelism—in our own lives and in our churches.”³

Week Four: The Corporate Witness of the Church

¹ DeYoung, Kevin and Gilbert, Greg. *What is the Mission of the Church?*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2011). Pg. 241.

² Stiles, J. Mack. *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2014). Pg. 26.

³ Dever, Mark. *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2011). Pg. 17.

II. The Church must be set apart by a particular type of love.

- A. Studying our Savior's love
- B. Our love is grounded in divine love
 - God, on mission, loved...sending his Son.
 - Jesus, on mission, loved...dying on the Cross.
 - Now we, on mission, can love...one another.

Summary: Here is a call for Gospel-informed love. It's sacrificial. That's the nature of Gospel-love causing the world to take note.

III. The Church must understand where to focus her love.

- A. Prioritizing our love for One Another
- B. Love amongst disciples is to shine brightly
 - It's bright because it's corporate. We are a city set on a hill.
 - It's bright because it's a holy love.
 - It's bright because its multi-faceted, diverse love.
 - It's bright it's ever-growing.

Summary: A strong church doesn't just happen. It's forged--through doctrinal agreement, through relational commitment, through love that is sacrificial and tested.

IV. The church's love paves the way for gospel witness.

"All people will know" (John 13.35)

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 5.14-16)

- A. Love displayed through service: Practical expressions of love show the character of God, whether in reflecting his justice, mercy,

compassion, generosity, or other attributes. Such works also pave the way for a testimony of our Father in heaven.

- B. Love expressed in Words:** Good works demonstrate the difference the gospel makes. But they are not enough to save someone from their greatest need: reconciliation with a Holy God.

“The church is God’s evangelistic genius, not isolated people with evangelistic drive. In fact, people rarely come to faith from a single gospel witness. Most conversions are the result of a process that occurs over time and involves a variety of different gospel testimonies and experiences.”⁴

Going forward: *Develop a practical strategy of prayer and evangelism.*

- *Pray (with others, with Scripture):* Let the passages we are studying inform your prayers for one person who does not know Christ.
- *Plan (to befriend and share):* “Plan to stop not evangelizing”⁵

Recognize how many lesser priorities we plan for. Pursue with intentionality that friend who you’ve been praying for.

- *Speak (with an aim):* Since Christianity is all about news, we need to open our mouths and share it.

“The conversion and salvation of others should be the Christian’s objective. The preacher should work to convert his congregation. The wife should work to save her unbelieving unhusband. Christians are sent to convert. And they should not allow themselves as Christ’s representatives in the world to aim at anything less. Evangelizing, therefore, is not simply a matter of teaching and instructing and imparting information to the mind. There is more to it than that. Evangelizing includes the endeavor to elicit a response to the truth taught. It is communication with a view to conversion. It is a matter not merely of informing, but also of inviting. It is an attempt to gain or win, or catch our fellow men for Christ.”⁶

⁴ Dodson, Jonathan K. *The Unbelievable Gospel* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014). Pg. 192.

⁵ Dever, Mark. *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* (Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Publishing, 2011). Pg. 23.

⁶ Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. (Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2011).