

# Sermon Notes | Welcome to Sound City Bible Church #4 | Values 7-9

## Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between "sharing the gospel" and "sharing your own testimony?"
2. What is the gospel? (Hint: good news) What important elements should be included? How would you explain the gospel to a coworker, to a child, to a family member?
3. Can you share your own personal testimony? What difference has Jesus made in your life?
4. What does it mean that Jesus' kingdom is "not of this world?"
5. Where in your life do you need to emphasize the importance of "gathering?" What about "scattering?" Which comes naturally to you and which do you need to grow in?
6. What non-believing family & friends do you need to pray for this week? Who do you need to have a gospel conversation with?

## For Further Study

- *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Robert E. Coleman
- *America's Changing Religious Landscape* by Pew Research Center <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>
  - *Survey Fail: Christianity Isn't Dying* by Ed Stetzer <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/05/13/nones-americans-christians-evangelicals-column/27198423/>
  - *The American Church Is More Evangelical Than Ever* by Ed Stetzer <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2015/05/14/in-a-dramatic-shift-the-american-church-is-more-evangelical-than-ever/>
  - *Is Christianity Dying?* by Russell Moore <http://www.russellmoore.com/2015/05/12/is-christianity-dying/>
- *The Soul-Winner* by Charles Spurgeon
- *Counter Culture* by David Platt
- *Onward: Engaging the Culture without Losing the Gospel* by Russell Moore

## Sermon Recap

### Introduction

When you think of an “evangelist” or a “missionary,” what immediately comes to mind?

- Evangelist: Greek root word “euangelion” which means “good words” or “good news”
- Mission: Latin root word meaning “to send”
- As Christians, we have been entrusted with the *good news* of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, then *sent* into the world to proclaim this news.

Objection from non-Christians: “Christianity has a lot of good teachings, but why do people have to always be trying to convert other? It’s not that I have a problem with Christianity, but with trying to persuade others to believe the same.”

- Response from Penn Jillette, entertainer and avowed atheist: “I don't respect people who don't proselytize. If you believe that there is a heaven or hell, or that people could be going to hell, or not get eternal life, and you think it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward...and atheists think people shouldn't proselytize, just keep religion to yourself...how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?”

Main text: John 17:13-21

### Value #7 — Every Member a Missionary

- Verse 18 — “As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”
- Verse 20 — I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.
- Two keys: sharing the gospel and sharing your testimony. Those two are related but non synonymous.

### Value #8 — Preaching the Kingdom

- Verse 14-16 — 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
- In the world, but not of the world

What does it mean to not be *of* the world?

1. Kingdom, not a cause
2. Converts, not church-swap

3. Conviction, not culture
4. Cross, not “cool”

#### Value #9 — A Church Gathered and Scattered

- Verse 21 — [I pray] that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
- Evangelism happens when the church gathers
  - Acts 2:46-47
  - Invitation: “come and see”
- Evangelism happens when the church scatters
  - Acts 8:9-25, 26-40
  - Incarnation: “go and be”

#### Conclusion: What Is Our Motivation For Evangelism?

- We Evangelize Out of Joy
  - John 17:13 — But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.
  - When you know the joy of salvation, you can’t help but want to share it
- We Evangelize Out of Compassion
  - People are truly lost and on their way to Hell. Simply put: do we care?

“The saving of souls, if a man has once gained love to perishing sinners and his blessed Master, will be an all-absorbing passion to him. It will so carry him away, that he will almost forget himself in the saving of others. He will be like the brave fireman, who cares not for the scorch or the heat, so that he may rescue the poor creature on whom true humanity has set its heart. If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.” — Charles Spurgeon