

What Is Evangelism?
Pastor's Corner – June 2022

It's a word that can be so easy to say but so hard to execute. **What exactly defines evangelism? What does it mean for you and me?** God calls all of us to serve and grow together as we deliver the message of Christ. In the quest to proclaim the gospel message, evangelism unites us with Jesus Christ into a community of faith whereby we intentionally show love, hope, and joy into a plan of discipleship that gives opportunities to share our faith in reaching out to our neighbors, not just in our community but the world.

It is essential to realize that evangelism should take us out of our comfort zones as we become more like Jesus in seeking the lost in a risk-taking mission and service. We need to go outside our four walls to meet people where they are and share our faith in our words and deeds and not a special recipe only kept inside the church available to just us at 9am or 11:15am.

Author George Hunsberger points out in *The Study of Evangelism* that, "When a person, or a congregation, understands and has experienced the joyous news of the kingdom of God, evangelization is natural and spontaneous. People cannot keep such news to themselves."

Furthermore, evangelism isn't a "**come to us**" event, but it's about executing a discipleship plan that will begin transforming and making disciples for Jesus Christ. **A critical biblical text that addresses our role of evangelism in the church is the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:15-20.** The manifestation of making disciples and spreading salvation through Jesus Christ is by inviting, seeking, and going out to all to know that Christ is among them in their joys and tribulations of life. Given as a command, The Great Commission purposefully points out disciple-making to be investing in others' lives with the intent to be in a relationship with them in a loving way as modeled by Christ.

We need to remember that part of Jesus' earthly ministry was making connections with others. We become unified when we speak with one heart and love our neighbors as we do ourselves. Listening and valuing one another is a way of living out the Great Commission. Evangelism must have the ability to go into the uncomfortable waters and to resist complacency and speak of the same mind as Christ. **To summarize evangelism, let us remember that some questions can't be answered by Google!**

+Pastor Ben