

Introduction to Great Commission Studies

Week Two: Theology and Evangelism

Why hold the two disciplines together?

1. At its foundation, the trustworthiness of the message of evangelism is a _____ issue—that is, can the Bible be trusted?
2. Theology and evangelism are _____ in scripture.
3. Proper theology helps protect evangelism from becoming _____ and _____.
4. Proper theology should provide the _____ for doing evangelism.
5. Theology divorced from evangelism loses the missionary focus of the biblical message and risks becoming self-centered _____.

Charles Spurgeon: “Our great object of glorifying God is, however, to be mainly achieved by the winning of souls. *We must* see souls born unto God. . . . The ambassadors of peace should not cease to weep bitterly until sinners weep for their sins.”

Theology and Evangelism

- I. Our theology of evangelism must be rooted in the God of Creation.
 - A. Creation is _____ on God, but God is distinct from creation.
 - B. God is, by virtue of His role as creator, _____ over the creation.
 - C. God’s purpose in creation, recognizing that He was under no obligation to create, must have been for His _____: to show forth His glory.
 - D. God is holy, demanding _____ to His commands.

- E. God is gracious, promising a Savior in the _____ of Genesis 3:15.
- F. God is a God who comes _____ the fallen, even as Adam and Eve hide in their sin.

II. Sin separates us from the one who created us.

A. Terms characterizing “sin”

- 1. Missing the mark that God has established, both by sins of _____ and _____
- 2. To cross over, passing by the _____; rebellion & transgression
- 3. To bend or twist
- 4. Other senses of the word include _____, ungodliness, disobedience, stumbling, unrighteousness, etc.

B. Definitions of “sin”

- 1. “Any lack of _____, active or passive, to the moral law of God. This may be a matter of act, of thought, or of inner disposition or state”
From Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 579
- 2. “Any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature”
From Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 490
- 3. “willful rebellion by refusing to do what God commands; determining to do what God forbids . . . we find ourselves _____ and _____”
From Metzger, *Tell the Truth*, 46
- 4. “a fundamental wrongness within man that causes habitual _____ against God”
From C. E. Autrey, *Theology of Evangelism*

C. The pervasiveness of sin

- 1. It corrupts _____ of our being, affecting the emotions, the actions, the will, the desires; the very being of humans is corrupted.
- 2. It corrupts _____ people.
- 3. Thus, it results in alienation for all people, that is (according to Salter, *American Evangelism*), estrangement from nature, from others, from self, and ultimately and most significantly, from God.

– loss of innocence produces *guilt*: healed by _____

- loss of intimacy with God produces *alienation*: healed by _____
- loss of identity produces esteem issues: healed by _____
- loss of life brings physical and spiritual death: healed by _____

III. The redemptive plan of God is atonement for sin.

- A. The vicarious (“one in place of another”), substitutionary death of Christ
- the predominant theme of the NT; indeed, as Dr. Akin argues in his own systematic theology notes, “any theory of the atonement which does not have as its central element that Jesus Christ bore our punishment in our place is inadequate.”

B. Terms characterizing the “death of Christ”

1. We deserve to *die* as the penalty for sin: God provided a _____ (Rom 3:25; 1 Cor 5:7; Heb 9:6-15).
2. We deserve to *bear God’s wrath* against us: God provided a _____ for our sins (1 John 4:10).
3. We are *separated from God* by our sins: God provides _____ in Christ (2 Cor. 5:18-19).
4. We are in *bondage to sin* and to the kingdom of Satan: God _____ us (Gal 3:13).

IV. Our response is to be _____ and _____.

A. Repent

1. To turn in an opposite direction; recognition of moral separation, necessitating the forsaking of sin and turning to God
2. To think differently; to have a change of mind

B. Believe

1. To lean upon, to confide in, to trust
2. To give personal trust rather than mere credence or belief

- The prayer? The decision?

V. Our responsibility as believers is to participate in biblical church growth.

- A. _____ church growth understands that we are called to go into the world and preach the gospel (Matt 28:18-20).
- B. Legitimate church growth recognizes that the church, by its very nature, is not only an organization to grow—it is a divinely established _____ to behold.
- C. Legitimate church growth _____ and evaluates growth.
- D. Legitimate church growth strives to fulfill the biblical purposes of the church without _____ in message.
- E. Legitimate church growth understands that, for whatever reason, God has _____ to use us as instruments to grow His church.