

High School Sunday School – March 28, 2009

# Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Lesson 6 – Are You Equipped

Part 1: What is “The Gospel” and How Do You Share It?

1. If you took a random person off the street and asked him or her, “What does it mean to be a Christian?” what are some common answers you might get in response?
  
2. In order to share the good news of Jesus with somebody, you need to be absolutely certain you understand it yourself. So, first, let’s think about what the good news is *not*:
  - A. The Good News is *not* simply that we are okay.
  - B. The Good News is *not* simply that God is love.
  - C. The Good News is *not* simply that Jesus wants to be our friend.
  - D. The Good News is *not* simply that we should live rightly.
  - E. The gospel is not about: **evolution, family values, the guy who holds up the John 3:16 sign, what’s fair and what’s not, speaking in tongues, Republicans and Democrats, sins committed by Christians in the past, mistakes in the Bible, Christian celebrities, cults, predestination, apologetics, how a good God could do one thing or another, etc., etc., etc.**
  
3. What is wrong with this quote?

“Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary use words.”

4. What is the difference between these two statements:

“Sharing the Gospel by word *or* deed”

vs.

“Sharing the Gospel by word *and* deed”

5. **The Gospel is good news (a message)! It is not good advice or good deeds.**
  
6. **Good deeds are a result of the Gospel. They are not the Gospel itself.**
  
7. **So what is the good news of Jesus? Acts 11:34-43 is a great example!**
  - A. [God] Who is God? **God is supreme.** (vv. 34-35)
  - B. [Law] What does God demand? **Perfect obedience.** (vv. 34-35)
  - C. [Sin] Who are we? **Sinners.** (v. 36, 43)
  - D. [Jesus] Who is Jesus and what did he do? **Jesus is Lord and servant; he lived a perfect and sinless life, died a sacrificial death, was raised from the dead, and he will judge all people.** (vv. 38-42)
  - E. [Response] How are we restored to God? **By faith in Jesus** (v. 43)
  
8. **So when someone asks us, “What must I do to be saved?” What should our answer be?**

**A. Repent!**

**B. Believe!**

*When people ask me “How can I actually become a Christian?” I usually say, “It takes two things, and a third.” The two things – repentance and faith – I have just laid out. There is another crucial aspect, however. Why not just say that there are actually three things, then? I would prefer to say “two and a third” because the third is not so much a third thing as it is the way you do the first two...*

*...Therefore, repentance and faith must be done both individually and communally. We do them when we personally approach God in prayer (as in the previous examples), and also when we publicly identify with Christ by becoming part of the church. ~ Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*, pp. 187-8.*

**C. Be baptized/join a local church!**

- **Acts 2:37-41 is a perfect example of the connection between repentance, faith, and baptism/church membership.**