

Stats: Less than 2 percent of Christians are involved in evangelism.

## What is Evangelism?

Sharing the good news

Sure, we've got excuses. People might think we're weird. People around us aren't open for people telling them what to believe in. They are used to choosing their own truth, to believing what suits them most, so we don't want to be the dark, controlling people that bring something we claim is truth. We don't want to be the old-fashioned people who think we need a God to be happy. We don't want to be judges telling others they're sinners.

And it's difficult. As soon as we start a conversation about faith we get questions and arguments thrown at us that are difficult to answer. And just explaining the basics in Christianity can be challenging to a lot of us. Where do we start? What can we say so the people listening see Jesus and not just a system and words?

And sometimes it's hard to know if evangelism is worth the effort. It's hard enough to keep our own Christian lives going, and being part of a church takes time and energy as well. Are we supposed to challenge ourselves and meet non-Christians with the Gospel in addition to all of this?

With all these questions and excuses, the low numbers aren't surprising. But they should still challenge us. It should hurt, because this is not the way it's supposed to be. The Bible doesn't tell us to go evangelize only if we feel like it and everything else makes it possible.

What we need to do is to get God's heart for evangelism.

The thing is, God's not after our efforts or initiatives. He's not after the good words and the good deeds. He's after our hearts. He wants our hearts to beat for the people who have never heard a word from the Bible. He wants our hearts to be filled with love and longing for the people we see on the street. He wants our hearts to break for the young adults that decide to leave the church they

grew up in. Because that's what His heart does. That's where it all has to start.

Paul is a great example when it comes to being a missionary with your heart. He reveals his longing in **Romans 10:1** "*Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.*"

### Why do we reach?

- **Christ Commanded it:** Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20
- **Christ is the only way:** John 14:6
- **Christ died for the world:** John 3:16
- **God desires a relationship** with every human being and for all to hear. Jesus repeatedly told stories of God's love for the lost: God is like a shepherd searching for one lost and vulnerable sheep. He is like a woman looking in every nook and cranny for a lost, valuable coin. He is like a father who celebrates when his lost and confused son returns home. These parables illustrate God's earnest and patient search for every person. "*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance*" (2 Peter 3:9).
- **Churches that don't focus on evangelism die!**  
Inward focus is unhealthy  
We are not in the business of Sheep swapping
- **God wants you to grow!!!!** Going back to 2 weeks ago - Miracle Growth for a Christian is to lead someone to the lord and disciple them. God is passionate about our personal growth. When we proclaim the good news, we grow as Christ's disciples. Evangelism opens us up to the adventure of obeying God and collaborating with him in ways that strengthen our faith and transform our thinking. Jesus even promises we're empowered for evangelism by the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:8**), and that he loves us enough to see to it that "*...every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful*" (John 15:2).
- **Sharing the gospel is a powerful way to love people.** Back to week 1 -We find inspiration to love others from God's love for

us. His sacrificial love was a free gift to you, and it's a gift you're intended to pass along (Matthew 10:8). In 2 Corinthians 5:14, it says, *"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died."* You can love people by introducing them to God's love and compassion as demonstrated by Christ on the cross.

### Video of Penn Jillett

#### Who should we reach?

Unchurched and the De-churched ... Specifically Millennials  
Archery lessons.

Point that way... Aim at the TargetS... Aim at your Target.... Try and Hit the bullseye.

Target is the unchurched and de-churched, Bullseye is Millennials. So far the largest Generation to date. 78 million born from 1980 - 2000. Boomers were 75 million They are hopeful, relational, learners, who have given up on the church. (for the most part)

#### How do we reach?

Missional or Attractional? Yes!

Missional says that we should be Christ to the world. We need to reach people where they are! We need to reach into their daily lives and impact them where they live.

*2 Cor 5:18-21 says... 18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin,[c] so that we could be made right with God through Christ.*

Attractional says we need to invite them in.

*John 1:39 "Come and see," he said. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was*

*staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.*

**John 4:29** *“Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?”*

**It is BOTH AND**

**LUKE 14:15-23**

*15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.” 16 Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ 18 “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’ 19 “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’ 20 “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ 21 “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’ 22 “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’ 23 “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”*

**What is a stake?**

In **2 Corinthians 5**, Paul shares some of the motivation and background for his heart for mission. The first motivation, in verse 11, is perhaps the most surprising. *“Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.”* Fear. Not fear of hell for us, but fear of hell for them! Paul is motivated by fear. That doesn’t sound right, but it is. Because Paul knows the reality of life, the fact that God is holy and is going to judge us some day, he sees how important mission is.

The truth is **"Hell is hot, eternity is long and the stakes are way to high"** not to focus on reaching the lost.