

Why Share the Gospel?

1. Concern for God's glory

John Piper says, "Missions exist because worship doesn't". God's aim is to be known and praised and enjoyed and feared among all peoples of all nations (Ps. 67). He desires to be glorified throughout the world, therefore we should desire to see Him glorified throughout the world (Isa. 11:9, Rev. 15:3-4). Because life and ministry and evangelism is ultimately about God, and not us, God's glory is to be our driving motivation in ministry. Passion for God's glory is what sustains us in evangelism even when compassion for people is weak. Think of this as the evangelistic expression of the first Great Commandment – to love God with all our hearts, souls, mind and strength.

2. Compassion for man's destiny

Jesus gives us a window into His heart when He sees the crowd and has "compassion on them, because they are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matt. 9:36). The closer we get to Jesus the more we become like Jesus, and the more we see people the way Jesus did. The reason Jesus so loved and was so broken for sinners is because he knew they were harassed and helpless without the gospel in this life, but without the gospel they were also headed to hell in the next life. Hell is a true and terrifying reality. In 2 Thes. 1:8-9 Paul says that God will "punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power." Think of this as the evangelistic expression of the second Great Commandment – to love others as ourselves.

3. Conviction for our responsibility

Another motivating reason for evangelism is because Jesus said so. In Matt. 28:19 He gave all his disciples for all time the Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations". That is a command to be obeyed, not an option to be considered. As disciples we must make disciples, and evangelism is the first step in the disciple-making process. Paul understood this when he talked about the reward and responsibility in evangelism when he said, "I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me" (1 Cor. 9:16-17).

4. Compelled by Christ's love

In 2 Cor. 5:14 Paul says that "Christ's love compels us". As we experience Christ's sacrificial and saving love for us, we can't help but extend His love and grace to others. And the more we consider how God saved us, the more confident we are that he can save anybody!