

Two Overlooked Factors In Evangelism v3

Our love for and unity with one another directly affect how successful we are in evangelizing the lost

Introduction

- To reach the lost, we must be careful to stay true to the gospel message
- But, there are two overlooked factors that positively affect our evangelistic efforts
- These are how we love one another and being unified in following the apostles' teaching
- Failing either to love one another or be unified in His Word will negatively affect our ability to reach the lost

2

Love one another as Christ loved us

- Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples and introduced His memorial supper
- After supper, to overcome the selfishness and pride of His disciples, Jesus showed humble loving sacrificial service by washing their feet
- This was a lowly task usually done by servants or by each individual if no servant was available

3

Selfishness and pride threaten the disciples' faith and mission

Luk 22:21 "But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Mine on the table.

Luk 22:22 "For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"

Luk 22:23 And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who was going to do this thing.

4

Selfishness and pride threaten the disciples' faith and mission

Luk 22:24 And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.

Luk 22:25 And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.'

5

Selfishness and pride threaten the disciples' faith and mission

Luk 22:26 "But *it is* not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.

Luk 22:27 "For who is greater, the one who reclines *at the table* or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines *at the table*? But I am among you as the one who serves.

6

Love one another as Christ loved us

Joh 13:3 *Jesus*, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God,

Joh 13:4 *got up from supper, and *laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.

7

Love one another as Christ loved us

Joh 13:5 Then He *poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

8

Love one another as Christ loved us

Joh 13:6 So He *came to Simon Peter. He *said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?"

Joh 13:7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter."

Joh 13:8 Peter *said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

9

Love one another as Christ loved us

Joh 13:9 Simon Peter *said to Him, "Lord, *then wash* not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."

Joh 13:10 Jesus *said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all *of you*."

Joh 13:11 For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

10

Love one another as Christ loved us

- Jesus shows them an example of humble sacrificial love
- Jesus' example is for us to follow today in humble sacrificial service to one another
- We love not only when there is great physical need but also daily to encourage and strengthen each other spiritually

11

Love one another as Christ loved us

Joh 13:15 "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

Joh 13:16 "Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor *is* one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.

Joh 13:17 "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

12

Love one another as Christ loved us

Joh 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Joh 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

13

Love one another as Christ loved us

1Jn 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

1Jn 3:17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

1Jn 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

14

Be one together as Jesus and the Father are one

Joh 17:20 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

Joh 17:21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

15

Be one together as Jesus and the Father are one

- As we love one another as Jesus loved us, the world can readily understand we are Jesus' disciples
- But, along with love, we must seek to be unified together in the same way Jesus is unified with the Father
- Jesus and the Father are perfectly united in character, purpose and action

16

Be one together as Jesus and the Father are one

- This unity must be based on the apostles' teaching and must be easily seen by the world
- When they see this unity, they will be more convinced Jesus was sent by the Father
- When they see division, they conclude the opposite, He was not sent by the Father
- Compromising the Word of God is not an option to attain unity

17

Be one together as Jesus and the Father are one

Joh 8:29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

Joh 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

Joh 17:22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;

18

Be one together as Jesus and the Father are one

Joh 17:23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

Joh 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

19

Be one together as Jesus and the Father are one

Joh 17:25 "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me;

Joh 17:26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

20

The only standard for unity is the apostles' teaching

Joh 17:8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received *them* and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

Joh 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Joh 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

21

The only standard for unity is the apostles' teaching

Joh 16:12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.

Joh 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

22

The only standard for unity is the apostles' teaching

1Co 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

23

Love and unity in the Jerusalem church

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Act 2:43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

24

Love and unity in the Jerusalem church

Act 2:44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;

Act 2:45 and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

25

Love and unity in the Jerusalem church

Act 2:46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

26

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1. Love one another as Christ loved us
2. Be one together as Jesus and the Father are one

27