



# ***EVANGELISM*** ***2023***

**The Ministry of  
Reconciliation**  
Andrew Puentes

**START NOW**

# Evangelism: The ministry of the Church

## Ministry of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:1-21

In this scripture Paul is giving us insight on the work of Christ towards us through regeneration or the ministry of the Spirit. The emphasis here is based on the earthly conditions of humanity and the promise of a heavenly dwelling place. This is consistent with the way Paul starts this letter to the churches of Corinth. We notice how after he gives his introductions in chapters one and two, Paul introduces regeneration and the ministry of the Spirit in chapter three.



# Context of I Corinthians 3-5

**2Co 3:3 And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.**

**As Paul continues in chapter four we see him give this illustration comparing the weakness of our humanity and the power of regeneration in the midst of that weakness. Paul is showing how the ministry of the Spirit is that glory that humanity is missing in order to have essence in life. The light afflictions we endure here on earth through the weaknesses of the flesh are met by this hope of a greater revelation of glory through the work of the Spirit in us.**

# Context of I Corinthians 3-5

**2Co 4:7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.**

**As Paul continues to describe and explain the power and necessity of regeneration we move into chapter five where now Paul once again states this fragile human condition being temporary awaiting the full revelation of the ministry of the Spirit in us. The theme here of hope in the midst of frailty continues, as Paul states that even though we groan in this earthly condition we have a guarantee of what is to come. Here Paul once again emphasizes on the ministry of the Spirit being the one that is doing the work in us, not only giving a future hope of greater things to come in heaven but also in the Spirit preparing us for greater things now.**

# Context of I Corinthians 3-5

**2Co 5:5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.**

**This statement must give the Christian a sense of security and confidence. The safety of this confidence is found in understanding that the theme laid out by Paul since chapter three is giving all recognition to the ministry of the Spirit and not to our human frailty. We can confidently walk in the power of regeneration not being held back by the weaknesses of our humanity because of the work of the Spirit in us. Being prepared is a double edged sword, we are prepared for works that we by ourselves were never able to partake of because of the weaknesses and corruption of our humanity. On the other side we are prepared not to sit but to do these greater works.**



# Context of I Corinthians 3-5

**2Co 3:4 Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God.**

**2Co 3:5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God,**

**This then is letting understand that the glory that is to be demonstrated through us in the future and now both come from the guarantee we have of the work the ministry of the Spirit has done and will continue to do in us. The emphasis then is not based on the weakness of the flesh but in the confidence we now have been granted to walk in the power of the Spirit. No one that is a participant of the Spirit should live in the fear of insecurities or according to the weakness of their humanity. The liberating power of walking in the Spirit comes through the revelation of what the ministry of the Spirit is continually doing in us. Now the understanding is that these greater works that have been prepared for us by God are now given to us as a right. I have been given a divine right by God to walk in greater works.**

# Context of I Corinthians 3-5

**This is crucial to understand because without us first understanding the ministry of the Spirit in us we will never understand the ministry that has been given to us to perform. It's not until we first realize what God is doing in us that then we will be able to be what we have been called to be.**

**Paul continues to speak of this ministry of the Spirit now shifting gear into the reality of God's justice. If there is a hope of glory it's because there is a just judge that must bring retribution to all unrighteousness. The example of of this justice is found here in chapter five as Paul speaks of the judgement seat of Christ. While Paul is giving this example he introduces the justice of God being as a terror.**

# Context of 1 Corinthians 3-5

**2Co 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.**

**Paul once again sets the tone of responsibility as he states that the work of Christ in us has enabled us not to live for the weaknesses of the flesh but now preform in obedience what God has prepared us for. The newness of life as being defined as a new creation is one that has an emphasis on all areas of life. My newness of life cannot be defined by the weaknesses and frailties of my past.**



# Context of I Corinthians 3-5

**2Co 5:15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**

**With this confidence in the Spirit, we now must walk in accordance to the work of the ministry of the Spirit in us. Understanding this ministry now allows us to know and walk in the ministry that has been given to us as the church. All this glory and miraculous hope comes with the liberating power of God for us but also with the responsibility of preforming the works we have been prepared for.**

# Context of I Corinthians 3-5

## 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2Co 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

2Co 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

# Evangelism in the New Testament

**The Gospel is shared 22 times in the book of acts  
From Acts 2:21-28:31**

**Through the book of Acts we see how God wanted the Gospel to be presented. Interesting enough every time you see the Gospel shared in the book of Acts its never done the same way. There isn't "one" unique way that the Gospel must be presented like a perfect "formula". Jesus shares the gospel in the four gospels 96 times and all those times he never does it the same way. What we do see though is that written down we see the elements that make the Gospel powerful unto salvation.**



# Evangelism in the New Testament

After the three year evangelism school that Christ lead the disciples through, there are the 22 times in the book of Acts that we see the disciples putting into action all they have learned. Jesus trained them up to be the foundation stones (Ephesians 2) upon which His church would be built.

Lets look at the lessons Jesus taught His disciples:

**Gospel of Matthew - Jesus explains the Gospel 39 times.**

**Gospel of Mark - Jesus explains the Gospel 10 times**

**Gospel of John - Jesus explains the Gospel 24 times**

**Gospel of Luke - Jesus explains the Gospel 29 times**

# Evangelism in the New Testament

**The last time Jesus is referencing the Gospel in Luke is in Luke 24:45. We see how Jesus is summarizing His ministry and formulating the send off charge for His disciples, here He describes the content of the Gospel.**

**The essence of the Gospel we should share must follow the content that Jesus prescribes. This is the commission that God is giving His disciples defining what they are suppose to do for the rest of their lives, knowing that we should carefully analyze the summary that Jesus is giving here.**

# Evangelism in the New Testament

**Luke 24:45-49**

**Luk 24:45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

**Luk 24:46** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

**Luk 24:47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

**Luk 24:48** And ye are witnesses of these things.

**Luk 24:49** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.



# Evangelism in the New Testament

The two elements that we see here highlighted as part of the essence of the Gospel is:

1-Sin

2-Repentance

Luke 24 is the culmination of how Jesus explains how people become Christians. Jesus describes evangelism here and we will compare how Jesus' teachings on soul winning are presented all 22 times in the book of Acts. Luke writes his sequel to his Gospel which is the book of Acts. Luke writes the presentation of the Gospel from its origin in his Gospel all the way till the end when Paul is about to stand trial in Rome.

The book of Acts has a time span of 30 years. 28AD - 58AD

Acts is not so much a book on doctrine but a statement of 30 years of sharing the greatest message ever given. The book of Acts is the critical insight of how the 1st Century Church did evangelism. Out of the 22 times the Gospel is presented in the book of Acts let see these two examples and break down some important themes.

# Evangelism in the 1st century church

**Message 1: the first Gospel presentation in Acts  
Acts 2:21, 37,38 41**

**Here we see Peter using an Old Testament writing of Joel 2 to present the Gospel. When we look at the way that Paul presents the Gospel in the first 17 verses of Romans I we also see how he uses the Old Testament. You can present the Gospel from both Testaments without a problem.**

# Evangelism in the 1st century church

Message II: The second Gospel presentation in Acts  
Acts 3:19, 26

The word “be converted” in Greek is the word *epistrephō* which is a compound word.

*strephō*: means to turn around  
*Epi*: means on and around

It’s a preposition attached to a word to magnify its meaning. In other words today’s translation would be “REALLY turn around” away from your iniquity.



# Evangelism in the 1st century church

**Acts 4:4**

**But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.**

**The same number of people that were at the feeding of Jesus Christ were now here being saved by the sharing of the Gospel. The day of Pentecost three thousand were added and now some time later we see a larger number of five thousand being added to the church.**

# Evangelism 2023

The New Testament church was able to see a tremendous increase of souls being added to the church because they were aware of the work regeneration in them. The ministry of the Spirit assured them of the confidence they were to have in walking in the calling that God has given them. The ministry of reconciliation is not one just for the leadership, but it is a responsibility that lands on the shoulders of all those that have been prepared by God for these very things.