

SACRAMENTAL EVANGELISM

This is a teaching outline. Some parts of it is filled in with detail, but the teacher should feel free to elaborate and expand the outline to meet the need of those to whom it is being taught:

THE PURPOSE:

Assurance of who you are in Christ Jesus

Affirm who you know yourself to already be

Bring you to a new level of certainty as a Christian

Provide an approach to Evangelism different from old modes of the evangelical

Develop a pattern for teaching about salvation and evangelizing others

Our pattern will deal with the positiveness of God's grace given in baptism and that through baptism [child or later] God has adopted you into His Kingdom.

THEME: Sacramental Evangelism

We will approach Evangelism from our Liturgical and Sacramental basis

We will define it in the same way as we define "SACRAMENT"

"outward and visible expression of an inward and spiritual encounter or relationship with Jesus"

Eucharist: Outward: Bread and Wine Inward: Covenant with Jesus

Baptism: Outward: Water Inward: Eternal Life

First question: Why do we need a relationship with Jesus Christ?

Establish the Need for Salvation

The Need - Establish the reason for the need

Romans 3:23, 6:23

Genesis 2: 17; Genesis 3: 6; Genesis 5: 5

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Gen 5:5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.

THE CONDITION:

God creates man in HIS image as a spiritual being

Originally God's creation had absolute communion or fellowship with GOD!

Man is told there was one thing he could not do and if he did, death would be imminent.

In their SIN the fellowship was broken
SPIRITUAL DEATH!

GOD

spirit
mind
body

The Desire - "Man is restless until he finds his rest with God."

The most important question asked in Scripture is "What must I do to be saved?"

Acts 16:30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Man desires to be RIGHT with God Romans 5:21; Romans 8:10

Rom 5:21 "...so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Rom 8:10 "If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness."

The Leper Village Experience:

This is a personal experience I had on a mission trip in India and a visit to a leper village. Upon arrival a group of lepers were inside their church building, cleaning it, and when they heard our car arrive they came out to see who would visit them. They were outcasts. There were three of us with the local Priest and I had several cameras hanging from my neck. One of the leper men became very agitated and I instantly concluded it was the cameras. I put them back in the car and told the men with me to do as I do or we may be in trouble. I went into the midst of the group and began shaking hands with them. Calmness came over the group because we had become "one-with-them". We visited their village and before leaving we went into the church to pray. All the people in the village joined us. As I was praying and pausing for the translation, I felt an overwhelming love for these people. This verse of scripture came to my mind.

2 Cor 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Jesus, who was not a sinner, took sin upon Himself so we could be forgiven. In that moment this overwhelming love caused me to want to become a leper if so in doing these people could become clean. This is what Jesus did for us. We were outcasts in the Kingdom of God; lepers! He became a leper so we could become Children of God and inhabitants of His Kingdom.

Second question: How do we get that relationship with Jesus?

The Way

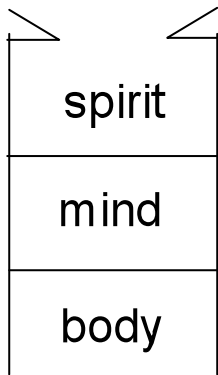
Purpose of Jesus' coming: Eternal Life

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

John 10:9 "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

GOD



John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Jesus is the **DOOR** that re-opens our relationship with God.
He gives back the life that died from Sin
We call it ETERNAL LIFE

What is eternal life?

Definition of Eternal Life, nature of Christianity
Only Christianity offers Eternal Life as different from re-incarnation or immortality

John 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.:"

In the Philippine language Tagalog: Malamam means informational knowledge - to know about. Another word is Makilala which means to know well; intimacy

The same is true in Greek - ginosko and in Spanish is "conocer"
There is a big difference between knowing about and knowing. Saint Paul says he wants to KNOW!

Compare to Phil 3:10 - ginosko; compare to Phil 1:25 and

Phil 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

GINOSKO - ginwskw:

from a primary root ginosko; to come to know, recognize, perceive:-- ascertaining, aware, be sure, comprehend, find out, found.

Phil 1:25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith..."

OIDA - *to have seen or perceived, hence to know:-- having knowledge, know about*

Mat 7:23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

The Greek is ginwskw - no relationship

Mat 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

The Greek "oido" - informational knowledge

God's Action - His Giving

Man's Response - Our Acceptance

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Rom 10:8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, in your mouth and in your heart"--that

is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Rom 10:10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

Third Question: What is the Result of that Relationship with Jesus?

The Result - made alive in Christ

Eph 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Eph 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Eph 2:7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

It is expressive in two forms:

1 - Personal Response

2 - Sharing with others

The best known scripture pertaining to salvation:

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." Jn 3:16

What constitutes "believing?"

"Irrigation well salvation" in south Florida -- explanation: In south Florida there are many farms that are irrigated from shallow wells. When migrant workers finish picking the crop what is left is open to residents to finish picking at a very cheap price. Almost always some one falls into one of these open wells and drowns. The story is of one man who fell in and prayerful made a deal with God that if he was saved he would become an evangelist. He was saved and spent the rest of his life PUSHING PEOPLE DOWN WELLS. Since salvation came to him in that place he thought all others were to experience the same. Some well meaning people think others must experience Jesus as they did.

Billy graham's style might imply "coming forward" - making an open and visible response

Evangelical groups might imply "being baptized as adult" and in believer's baptism confess acceptance of Jesus as Savior.

Catholic persuasion might imply "being baptized - period!" The danger in sacramental churches is that we sacramentalize people but never evangelize them. No teaching is given nor opportunity for the person baptized in infancy to accept personally Jesus and what was done for them and given to them in baptism.

Paul in Romans 10:9-10 was a sacramental evangelist

"Confess with your mouth: ---- "I have accepted Jesus as my Savior" (Have you ever told another person that you have accepted Jesus as your Savior?) We conducted a seminar for 33 bishops of the Philippine Independent Catholic Church and at the conclusion of my teaching on "The Centrality of Jesus" I asked the bishops to turn to one another and say "I have accepted Jesus as my Savior". Some were in tears. I had several come to me and say, "that is the first time I ever told someone I had accepted Jesus as my Savior."

“Believe in your heart”: --- heart understood as “emotion”

“for with the heart man believes: we act out our emotions with the mouth he says what he feels in his emotion.”

The word “believe” in its original Greek is akin to the word “faith”

It means literally to “put confidence in” so when Paul says to the Philippian jailer “believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved” he is saying

put confidence in what Jesus has done for you and your household

You see in

Old Testament people acknowledged their need for help against their enemies:

- occupying people; conquering nations; Rome

New Testament people acknowledged their need for help against their enemies:

- spiritual forces; persecution from Jews; persecution from those in family [Moslem to Christian faith, etc today]

we too often think we can conquer our enemies on our own strength

When you think you can do it yourself, you are putting confidence in your personal abilities and good works. God has a way by which His erring creation can be forgiven and reconciled to Him. We try to be “Burger King Christians” - having it our way – [in USA a fast food store advertised you could have your hamburger whatever way you want it] but we are up against a very strong and mighty Burger King God who says, “it will be done my way,” and JESUS IS HIS WAY.

Like it or not, being popular or unpopular, those who believe the Gospel must acknowledge that the only way to God, the only way in which we go to heaven, the only way in which we are Children of God, is through our acceptance of Jesus as Savior.

— In one place in the Philippines we were called “Fundamentalists” and rejected from teaching in this particular diocese because they put all confidence in the Sacraments and rejected personal experience.

“Fundamentalists” - those who emphasize salvation that comes through a personal acceptance of Jesus as Savior!

Problem: conflict between sacramental salvation and good works.

- A Youth Group in Miami would conclude their meetings by inviting anyone “who want to become a Christian” to go to a certain room where people would pray with them. Some of those young people who had attended this particular meeting announced at the youth meeting in their Church how they had become a Christian in that room. The priest hearing the testimony became very upset because to him they became a Christian when they were baptized in infancy. The leader of that group was implying they became a Christian when they made a personal acceptance of Jesus as Savior.

Who was right? saved when baptized vs saved when personally prayed acceptance
Sacramental salvation holds that thru your baptism you are saved - 1 Peter 3:18-21.

1 Pet 3:18 “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;
1 Pet 3:19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,
1 Pet 3:20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

1 Pet 3:21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

1 Pet 3:22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”

However, that which is given thru sacraments need to be actualized by the recipient

- Bill Griffith was an old man and a member of our Barnabas mission team. He was sitting in the church the night one of our team members preached and gave invitation to those who had never publically accepted Jesus as Savior and wished to do so to stand. Bill stood. In his church back in America he had held every position open to a lay person. He went to church every Sunday, gave his money, took Communion, prayed, but had never been given the opportunity to publically acknowledge Jesus as his Savior. Sacramentalize vs Evangelize!

- conscious decision – some evangelists invite people to wave their hand

- Bishop Allen Brown [Albany] decision offered = Bishop Allen Brown was retired Episcopal Bishop of Albany NY and spoke one night in a church where I was then Rector. It was our Thursday night “charismatic” service where we did a lot of singing, had a teaching, and concluded with prayer ministry. When Bishop Brown finished his teaching he gave an invitation to any present who had never accepted Jesus and wished to do so. All present had previously done so. He later explained that as a young Priest one of his parishioners chastised him saying “Father you preach good sermons, challenge people to accept Jesus but never give an opportunity for them to do so.” He said he took that correction to heart and vowed he would never again give an evangelical sermon without offering opportunity for response.

There is a continual conflict in the Philippines between the “born again” movement and those churches of Catholic influence. **“Born again” has been viewed as a cult because of the sometimes lopsided emphasis on acceptance void of good works or sacramental involvement.**

On the other hand, those of catholic persuasion err to the point of emphasis on “good works” as the person’s attempt to show the efficaciousness of sacramental baptism in their life. While God’s grace is most definitely given thru any sacrament and especially baptism, nevertheless, there still needs to be a time when a conscious awareness of one’s acceptance of that grace is experienced, otherwise the sacrament can become idolatrous.

In our Sacramental system do we need a time to **actualize** what has sacramentally given us?

Have you a time in your life when you can point to and say “at that time, or on that day, I came to know that Jesus died for my sin and I accepted him for my Savior?”

“God was in Christ Jesus reconciling the world unto himself” [2 Cor 5: 19] not man was in Christ Jesus trying to reach God.

We will in essence be saying, “you are already a Christian by baptism, but have you personally accepted and acknowledged your status in Christ?”

Rom 6:3 “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Rom 6:5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection...”

By baptism you enter into the death of Christ which means that in baptism the first nature is killed and buried and a new nature is raised up as evidenced in the resurrection of Jesus

Rom 6:11 “Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Jesus was a Sacramentalist:

John 6:51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

Covenant - you are what you eat!

John 6:55 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.

John 6:56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

Receiving Jesus gives eternal life

John 6:58 "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever."

Problem:

Church people fail to consider who we are.

It is what I have done

- my going to church
- my giving my money
- my my my my

When it should not be "my" but He
what He [JESUS] has done

He is the living bread

We do the eating but his indwelling us makes him the source of nourishment for eternity

But we must respond.

The church mouse that picks up a fallen host indeed has Jesus in his stomach, but the grace is of no consequence because the mouse is incapable of responding to it.

You must respond to the grace given in baptism, eucharist, confirmation, penance, healing, marriage, ordination or it is dormant and not of effect

This is what I mean by "**actualizing** what has been sacramentally given" - it is accepting, affirming and knowing that we are redeemed unto eternity through Jesus Christ.

Earlier I asked if you had a time, a day that you can point to as the time you knew you belonged to God; a time when you consciously accepted Jesus as your savior

I want right now to pray. Those who are able to point to a time will simply re-affirm what they have already experienced. Those who have no definite time to which they can point and say "that is when it became real for me" can now point to this moment.

I ask that all of us pray this prayer together:

"Lord Jesus....I know you love me....I accept your death on the cross.....and the shedding of your blood....as the pricefor saving me from eternal damnation....and giving me eternal life....forgive me all my sins....give me your life....and fill me with the Holy Spirit...Amen.