

ESSENTIALS OF EVANGELISM

The Bob Jones University Lectures on Evangelism for 1958

by

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CHAPTER TWELVE

HOW AN EVANGELIST SHOULD TREAT A CHURCH AND PASTOR

We have discussed “How a Church Should Prepare for a Revival Campaign” and “How a Church Should Treat an Evangelist.” Now we wish to discuss “How an Evangelist Should Treat a Church and Pastor.”

A good Scripture for this is Colossians 3:17, “**And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.**” This, of course, is a good standard for every work of the child of God. In Christian work things should be done in the name of the Lord and for the glory of God.

Again we would like to repeat in regard to this discussion that we in no sense of the word presume to have all the answers on these matters. We are hoping and praying that as evangelists, pastors, and believers in all walks of life think on these things that other ideas will come to their mind which will be helpful along these subjects.

There are seven statements that could be made about how an evangelist should treat the church.

I. HE SHOULD NOT FEEL THAT ALL THE RESULTS ARE BECAUSE OF HIS EFFORTS

The evangelist should remember that the faithful pastor has been there, in most cases, sowing the seed, the Word of God, for a good many years. In addition to this, the people have been praying and working and witnessing, trying to bring conviction upon the hearts and lives of the unsaved for many months and, in some instances, for many years before he ever came.

He should not assume the egotistical attitude that all the results achieved in a given campaign are the direct results of his own ministry. He should remember that Jesus said in John 4:35-38, “**Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.**”

Jesus mentions several important items in this brief passage.

1. The fields are white unto harvest, and there are many to be won.
2. He that sows and he that reaps ought to rejoice together and share the joy and the reward of the souls won.
3. Many times preachers reap results when they actually did no sowing themselves.
4. Sowing and reaping are equally important.

II. HE SHOULD NOT DWELL ON NONESSENTIALS AND CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS

An evangelist in a revival campaign should not dwell upon the nonessentials and controversial subjects which are not necessary to the edification of the church and the winning of the lost for Jesus Christ. He should not ride hobbies, so to speak, and speak on controversial subjects which are irrelevant to the work of soul-winning. We do not mean by this, of course, in any sense of the word that an evangelist should ever compromise his convictions in his ministry because of lack of agreement on the part of the pastor with what he believes and preaches. However, it is often the case that an evangelist will get into nonessential matters and very controversial subjects that cause contention and division in the church, and disastrous results follow long after the evangelist is gone.

He should stick to the business of preaching the Word, the gospel, the good tidings, the good news that Christ died to save sinners, of winning people to Christ, and of edifying the body of our Lord.

III. HE SHOULD AT ALL TIMES BE LOYAL TO THE PASTOR

It is our conviction that an evangelist should at all times be loyal to the pastor. This does not mean that he is called upon to condone and approve any mistakes the pastor might have made; but in every revival campaign there are malcontents and the unhappy ones who, if allowed to do so, would complain to the evangelist about their disagreements with the pastor. No evangelist should ever allow a member of a local church to complain and talk about the pastor without the pastor's being present. The evangelist under all circumstances should feel that it is his God-given duty to be loyal to the man of God whom the Lord has placed in that place. Many times, if evangelists side in with those who are discontented, they cause much trouble and disaster in the church long after they are gone.

IV. HE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT ALL EVANGELISTS WILL BE JUDGED BY HIM

The whole work of evangelism has often been hurt by needless mistakes and unnecessary blunders on the part of the evangelist. Every evangelist should remember that the whole divine profession of evangelism and every God-called evangelist will be judged by the way he conducts himself, by his very appearance and attitude and the nature of his work.

V. HE SHOULD NOT PRESUME UPON THE GENEROSITY AND THE LIBERALITY OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A complaint often given by pastors is that evangelists sometimes secure the names and addresses of their people while conducting a revival campaign; and then in the months and years which follow, they write back promoting their own work, asking for contributions, and thus hinder and hurt the work of the local church. We feel that this is wrong on the part of the evangelist. No evangelist should ever presume upon the generosity and the liberality of the people of God who love him and admire him and become attached to him during a revival campaign because of the work of the Lord which he is doing.

VI. HE SHOULD BE CAREFUL IN MONEY MATTERS

We have always been a strong proponent of good, generous, liberal offerings for the evangelist in a revival campaign. We feel that a church should go all out and do its very best and give a generous offering to the God-called evangelist. We've mentioned this before. However, when evangelists express disappointment in regard to the amount of the offering when the people have done their best, harm is done to the whole cause of evangelism in the matter of money.

The evangelist should be very careful, also, about the money he spends as far as meals, lodging, and other expenses which are to be charged to the church. Just because the church has agreed to foot the bill is no excuse for him to be reckless and careless in the matter of spending money for meals, lodging, phone bills, etc.

VII. HE SHOULD AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF EVIL

At all times the evangelist should avoid the appearance of evil. His counseling with individuals should always be done in the church and in the pastor's study with the pastor present. He should never allow people to come to his room for a private conference because this brings reproach upon the Name of the Lord. The evangelist is under constant scrutiny of hundreds of people. He should be sure that his personal appearance, his personal conduct, his mannerisms, and his conversation are above reproach at all times, both in the pulpit and out of it.

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