

Being an Effective Witness

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I. Introduction.

II. The history of personal evangelism.

A. The Israelites gladly accepted the privileges but they did not accept their special function to be priests. (Exodus 19:3-6)

1. God has something greater in mind for His people than to just enjoy the privileges. (Isaiah 54:5)

2. Israel was to be the people to bring all men to God and God to all men—this function was also extended to the New Testament.

B. The church evangelized in mass numbers because of their understanding of the priesthood of every believer.

C. The medieval church made a distinction between the clergy and laity that harmed the growth of the church.

III. Everyone is called to do the work of evangelism. (Acts 26:16, Luke 6:12, Mark 10:35)

A. We are all called to be active.

B. Several things have come up to convince us that we do not have to be active.

1. A limiting of the gifts.

2. The “if-only” syndrome. (Romans 1:14)

a. We have an obligation to share Christ.

b. Paul was eager to share Christ.

c. However, Paul was weak, a contemptible speaker, and the gospel had hostility against it. (Acts 28:22)

d. Paul was not counting on his ability, power, wisdom or approach but on the power of God.

3. Do not let lack of training be a hindrance—we are all growing. (Acts 20:32)

C. The gospel is the fact of sin, the penalty of sin, the free gift of salvation and something we must receive.

Application questions:

1. Trace the history of “the priesthood of the believer.”

2. How does Mark 10:35 contribute to the call of everyone to be active in the ministry?

3. What excuses have you had or do you have about being active in evangelism? How would you imagine God responding to these?
