

Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church Sunday School

Evangelism Week 4 – To the Whole Person: Conversion, Regeneration, and the Mind

I. The need for a holistic approach to evangelism

a. Definitions:

- i. Regeneration – impartation of new life to the soul; creation of a new heart, a new spirit (cf WCF 13.1, Tit 3:5-6, 2Co 5:17)
- ii. Conversion – the process of the work of God’s grace from the dawning of understanding and seeking to final closing with Christ in new birth.

b. Categories:

- i. *Sleeping sinner*
- ii. *Awakened sinner*
- iii. *Believing and Repentant*

c. Scriptural examples

- d. Metzger: *Clearly, we have sufficient warning both from our experiences with others and in Scripture that a partial response to the gospel is not only dangerous but prevalent.*

II. **The Whole Gospel to the Mind**

a. Two seemingly opposite cases / dangers:

b. The fallenness of the mind

1Co 2:14 *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.* (Eph 4:18)

c. The necessity of reasoning

i. Objection: You cannot argue someone into the kingdom.

ii. The model of the Apostles

Act 9:29 *And he spoke and **disputed** against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him.*

Paul in Corinth: Act 19:8-9 *And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, **reasoning and persuading** them about the kingdom of God. (9) But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, **reasoning** daily in the hall of Tyrannus.*

1Pe 3:15 *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a **reason** for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*

iii. In dependence upon the Spirit of God

Q. 31. What is effectual calling?

A. *Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.*

d. Implications