

On-Line Sermon Notes

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERIES</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>
09/11/16	Stretch	The Barriers to Evangelism	Various	Fred Hennes

Stretch

1. We are Ambassadors – *official representative to a foreign country*

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” 2 Cor 5:20

Stretch

1. We are Ambassadors
2. Evangelism is a process, not an event

“This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. Mark 4:26-27

28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” Mark 4:28-29

Crops Just Don’t Happen

1. Preparing
2. Sowing
3. Tending
4. Reaping (Harvest)
 - How to know if you are preparing or tending? Have you planted a seed?
 - Sowing & reaping don’t happen together. Seldom one person.

The Barriers to Evangelism

- Focus: Sowing - Why we don’t sow seeds
- Focus: Reaping - Why people resist Christ

Barriers to Sowing (Believers)

1. Fear
2. Inadequacy
3. Indifference
4. Time / 5. Isolation

1. The Barrier of Fear

- a) Fear of failure.
 - Wrong view of evangelism – Results are up to God
- b) Fear of rejection
 - No one wants to be disliked, alienated, labeled, and avoided.

If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 1 Peter 4:14

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18a

- Pray for a more perfect love of God.

“If you love me, keep my commands.” John 14:15

2. The Barrier of Inadequacy

- Can't. What do I say? It's not my personality!
- Share your testimony. Share your journey.
- Keep the message simple: God loves you / All have sinned / All are separated / Jesus died in your place / Eternal life is a gift to be received

5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant. 2 Cor 3:5-6a

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil 4:13

3. The Barrier of Indifference

- We must remember what is at stake – people are going to hell
- We get more concerned with side issues

... people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment... Heb 9:27

11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11-12

4. The Barrier of Time

- Busier than ever
- World view shapes our priorities / Priorities shape our practice
- Look at 168 hours not in days, but in 15-minutes blocks
- We could pinpoint wasted time, cluttered lives & excessive commitments
- We must cultivate an eternal perspective

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matt 6:33

5. The Barrier of Isolation

- After two years of following Christ, most have no contact
- Knowing Christ should always be coupled with making him known.
- Do we avoid because we do not want to be polluted by the world?

9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 1 Cor 5:9-10

11 But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. 1 Cor 5: 11

- “People will never believe we want them in heaven when we don't want them in our living rooms.”

Barriers to Reaping (Unbelievers)

1. Emotion
2. Intellect
3. Will

1. The Emotional barrier

- Negative attitude → painful experiences / raised in legalistic home
- Christians who judge / hate / hypocrites
- Overcome by building relationships – Love & Serve

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

2. The Intellectual Barrier

- Legitimate questions about God that have never been answered
 1. Does God really exist?
 2. What about homosexuality?
 3. What about woman's rights?
 4. Isn't Christianity just a crutch?
 5. Is the Bible true?
 6. If God is good, why do evil and suffering exist?
 7. How can Jesus be the only way to God?
 8. How can God send Muslims, Buddhists, Hindu's to hell?
 9. If Christianity is true, why are there so many hypocrites?
 10. Why are there so many denominations (brands) of Christianity
- Legitimate questions have legitimate answers – pastoral staff here to help
- There are no bad questions. These should be welcomed.
- Can always say let me get back to you.

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." Ps 14:1

- Recommended: Case for Christ / Who is this man / The Reason for God

3. The Volitional (Will) Barrier

- All have a sinful nature that is opposed to God
- Key: Prayer & the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit
- We judge the world and talk to ourselves
- We should judge ourselves and talk to the world

25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. 2 Tim 2:25-26