

The Value of a Soul #18 Evangelism Begins at Home

We should do everything we can to win the souls of those most precious to us, especially the members of our own family.

Jesus told His disciples to evangelize the world (Mt. 28:19, 20; Mk. 16:15, 16), but He also told them to begin right where they were, at home in Jerusalem (Lk. 24:47; Acts 1:8). Because of their proximity and because of the special concern we have for them, members of our own circle of family and friends are the natural ones with whom to begin sharing the gospel.

In the Old Testament, parents were required to diligently teach the Lord's commands to their children (Deut. 6:4). In the New Testament, in Ephesians 6:4, fathers are admonished to raise their children "in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." In a very strong statement in 1 Timothy 5:8, Paul said, "But if any one does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever." This probably refers to physical care, but if it is crucial to cater to the physical needs of our families, how much more important is it to provide for their spiritual well-being? In 2 Timothy 1:5, it is apparent that Timothy was positively influenced for Christ by the example of his mother and grandmother, and Peter affirms in 2 Peter 3:1, 2 that husbands can be won through the example of their wives.

These loved ones are uppermost in our hearts. Of all people on earth, we want these to be saved. We should want to spend all eternity with those who are dearest to us, especially our own flesh and blood.

Let's obey the Great Commission to go into all the world, but let us not overlook those who are closest to us. When you assemble to worship the Lord on His special day, wouldn't you like to be surrounded by those who are dearest to you in this life? Let's win our friends and family for Christ!