

EVANGELISM & MISSION

Christianity
Practices

Before Jesus ascended into heaven he said to his disciples...

'Therefore go and make **disciples** of all nations, **baptising** them in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.' *Matthew 28:19-10*

The Great Commission:

Jesus' instruction to his followers that they should spread his teachings to all the nations of the world

Evangelism:

Spreading the Christian **gospel** by public preaching or witness



Evangelism
telling

+



social action = mission
doing

=

Mission:

the **vocation** or **calling** of a religious organisation or individual to **go out** into the world and spread their faith

In Christianity, the **gospel** (good news) is the message of Jesus' victory over death and sin and to **evangelise** is simply to pass that message on. Message of hope.

Evangelism is different to **mission**. **Mission** may involve spreading one's faith in a multitude of ways including social action and practical love

Why evangelism is important

- **Jesus tells** his disciples to do it at the **Great Commission**
- It is the mission of the Church
- the **mission** of the Church is to evangelise - for all people to be saved – to **spread the gospel** of Christ by public preaching, teaching and healing, and/or by personal witness testimony.
- Jesus told Peter and Andrew to follow him and then he would make them 'fish for people'.
- Many Christians therefore feel that it is important to use their skills to spread the good news about Jesus / and this might be done by preaching / teaching / healing / or any other particular skill that they feel called to use.
- For some, this leads them to undertake missionary work / at home or abroad / in order to 'save' those who do not know Christ.
- Paul, one of the first Christians took his evangelical mission to the Gentiles (non-Jews).

Examples of Mission

- victims of a natural disaster: help re-build their communities / provide food, water, medicines, temporary shelters / comfort them in their time of need. '*Sheep & goats*'
- teach them new skills – healthcare
- provide money to start-up small businesses
- build a school
- fight against injustice / slavery / working conditions
- put pressure on governments to change

The Alpha course is an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life". Alpha courses are run in churches, homes, workplaces, prisons, universities, etc

