

Evangelizing Catholics:

An Evangelical Perspective by Fabiano Nicodemo

Workshop Goals:

- - Understand theological differences
- - Learn respectful, biblical approaches
- - Equip with practical tools for evangelism
- - Pray for our Catholic friends

Importance of Context:

- - Recognize Catholics' strong cultural and traditional ties.
- - Evangelize with love, respect, avoiding confrontation.

Books:

- Same Words, Different Worlds by Leonardo De Chirico.
- Tell Your Catholic Friend Paperback by Leonardo De Chirico.
- Missions: Sharing the Good News with Roman Catholic Friends by Rudolph D. González; Daniel R. Sánchez.
- Far from Rome, Near to God by Richard Bennett and Martin Buckingham.
- Talking with Catholics about the Gospel: A Guide for Evangelicals by Chris Castaldo.
- 40 Questions about Roman Catholicism by Gregg R. Allison.
- Roman Catholic Theology and Practice: An Evangelical Assessment by Gregg R. Allison.

Key Theological Differences

Main Differences:

- - Salvation: Grace through faith in Christ vs. grace + works (sacraments).
- - Mariology: Jesus as sole mediator vs. Mary's intercession.
- - Authority: Pope vs. Scripture as the supreme authority.
- - Sacraments: Believer's baptism vs. infant baptism.

Romans 3:23-24 (ESV)

- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)

- For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Difference on Salvation

- Evangelical:
 - - Salvation by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- Catholic:
 - - Faith + works and sacraments

Biblical Evangelism Approach

- Jesus and Apostles' Model:
 - - Scripture-based (Acts 17:2-3; 2Ti 4:2)
 - - Empathy and listening (John 4:7-26)
 - - Pray for guidance (Acts 1:8)

Acts 17:2-3 (ESV)

- And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead.

John 4:7-26 (ESV)

- Jesus' interaction with the Samaritan woman, showing empathy and addressing her spiritual needs.

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Practical Steps to Evangelize

1. Build Relationships:

- - Trust and love first
- - Share personal faith journey
- - Pray for Catholic friends

2. Focus on the Gospel:

- - Jesus' death and resurrection (1 Cor 15:3-4)
- - Ask reflective-provoking questions, such as, "*Who is Jesus to you?*"

Practical Steps to Evangelize

3. Answering Difficult Questions:

- - Be prepared to answer with gentleness (1 Peter 3:15).

Practical Steps to Evangelize

4. Offer Resources:

- Share key Bible passages.
- Use evangelistic tracts or invite them to evangelistic events.
- Recommend books

Q&A Session

- Space for discussion and questions

Conclusion and Prayer

Final Challenge:

- - Pray for Catholic friends
- - Apply what you learned
- Prayer for wisdom and guidance.