



ELLIOT CLARK

EVANGELISM AS EXILES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1

THE HOPE OF GLORY

1. Are you sometimes embarrassed for people to know you're a Christian? How does shame silence your witness?
2. The Christian hope of glory includes God bestowing honor on us at Christ's return. How can that hope overcome the shame we might expect from non-Christians if we speak the gospel?
3. Would others characterize you as generally hope-filled and joyful, or grumbling and frustrated? How does that affect your witness?
4. Take an inventory of your current relationships with non-Christians (in your family, neighborhood, school, or work). Is it possible that God has providentially placed you around certain people so that he might save them?

CHAPTER 2

FIGHTING FEAR WITH FEAR

1. What do you think is the primary reason why Christians don't evangelize more faithfully?
2. Assuming fear is a significant factor in our lack of evangelism, is merely providing education (evangelistic training and resources) sufficient to combat our fears?
3. Reflect on the Christian doctrine of judgment. How is an appropriate fear of God and for others a positive motivation for evangelism?
4. Does your life demonstrate the fear of man; that is, do you try to please others, have them like you or think well of you? If so, how does that affect your attempts at evangelism?



CHAPTER 3

WITH RESPECT FOR ALL

1. Have you ever experienced someone coming to Christ through the quiet, respectful, and patient witness of a Christian friend or family member?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. Is it possible that those who inquire about our hope will do so with antagonism—not because they're attracted to the gospel? Why is it so important that we answer with gentleness and respect?
3. What does it mean for us to triage our agendas? Are there places or platforms where you realize you should be more silent for the sake of the gospel?
4. Is there a non-Christian (individual or group) whom you struggle to honor and respect? What are some specific ways you can seek to bless and dignify them for the sake of Christ?

CHAPTER 4

DECLARING HIS PRAISES

1. Do you think the Christian lingo of “waiting for evangelistic opportunities” and “sharing the gospel” reflect a more passive approach to evangelism?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:4-10. What are some specific ways that God has bestowed honor on the church, and how does it inform our evangelism?
3. If we readily declare the praises of earthly trivialities, what does it say when we struggle to tell others the good news of Jesus?
4. Are there specific ways you can grow in evangelizing with more authority, urgency, or worship?

CHAPTER 5

VISIBLY DIFFERENT

1. If our testimony includes how God has called us out of darkness and into light, how important is it that we're walking in the light?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:11-12. Are you comfortable with the idea that Jesus wants your good deeds to be seen by others? What is the Christian motivation for visible holiness and love?
3. In what ways are you different than the non-Christians around you? What do they observe?
4. Are you praying for non-Christian family members and friends? Is it possible that those prayers are hindered because of your sin?



CHAPTER 6

THE GOOD NEWS OF HOME

1. Do you use your home as a means to introduce people to Jesus? Are there people you know who would never go to church, but you could invite them to your dinner table?
2. Reflect on Jesus's profound experience of shame and isolation by his earthly family. What do his words about his true brothers and sisters mean for us when we face the loss of family or friends?
3. Is your hospitality limited to those whom you like and/or those who are like you? Does it need to change?
4. How does the gospel's promise of honor and a home transform our earthly exile (shame and exclusion)? How should that hope shape us, our churches, and our evangelism?