



# evangelism in the early church

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**W**ho were the early Church Fathers and what can they teach us about the Holy Scriptures? The age of the Church Fathers begins with the apostles and the first disciples who had the privilege of personal contact with the Lord Jesus Christ. The word “apostle” is derived from the Greek word “apostello” which means “to send forth”, or “to dispatch”. The Lord left for the Church the Great Commission, “Go into the entire world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved: but he who does not believe will be condemned.” Therefore, the great task of the Church was very clear, to **evangelize**. The early Christians were characterized by a compelling desire to offer others the incomparable blessings they had received through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Certainly, part of their motivation in sharing the Holy Gospel was simply the natural delight related to bringing Good News to others. Another compelling reason to share the Holy Gospel among the early Christians was simply love. Love for God and their fellowmen. They desired to share the joy and happiness of God’s influence with the nations.

If the Lord has commanded the Church to make disciples of all nations, He must have meant this nation, too. Consequently, Orthodoxy has a mission to this country. We do have a special ministry to those who came from Greece, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Russia, but we also have a special mission to all the people of North America and they are men and women of every race and people on earth. **Evangelizing** can be done at any time as the Holy Spirit guides, or as the occasion warrants. In other words as the opportunity arises. Everybody and anybody can be reached: the rich, the poor, the young and the old; male and female; the bedridden and the

imprisoned. Every Christian can **evangelize**, not all Christians are called to priesthood, but all can and should be able to win others to the Lord Jesus Christ. Personal **evangelism** is a personal conscious effort to witness to a soul about the saving the Lord Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit guide us in our mission to **evangelize** to the people who have yet to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ. Glory be to God, forever. Amen.✙

*(Self Control, continued from page 50)*

1. Proverbs 25:28- Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.
2. 1 Corinthians 7:5- ....come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.
3. Galatians 5: 22-23- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:8- But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.
5. 1 Peter 1:13- Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.
6. 1 Peter 4:7- The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.
7. 1 Peter 5:8- Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.✙