

... go out into the highways and hedges,
and compel them to come in, that my house
may be FILLED." Luke 14:23

GO COMPEL...



INSERT SELF HERE

COMPEL [kuh m-pel]

1. to force or drive;
2. to secure or bring about by force.
3. to force to submit; subdue.
4. to overpower.
5. to drive together; unite by force; herd.

Luke 14:15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

16 Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. **17** At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

18 “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

19 “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

20 “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

GO COMPEL...

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21 “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

22 “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

23 “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’” NIV

GO COMPEL...

INSERT SELF HERE

1. Compel them

“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.

- **Compel**

- to force or drive, especially to a course of action
- to secure or bring about by force.
- to force to submit; subdue.
- to overpower.
- Archaic. to drive together.
- to have a powerful and irresistible effect, influence, etc.

GO COMPEL...

INSERT SELF HERE

1. Compel them

- Go get them
- Go to the places where people are
 - Highways
 - Hedges
- Leave here!
- Become comfortable with earthy people
- Depart from the “holy huddle”

GO COMPEL...

INSERT SELF HERE

2. Are we compelling?

A criticism of today's Evangelicals is that they don't evangelize. Author Christine Wicker writes of Evangelical Christians: "There's one thing they're not doing. They're not evangelizing, and nobody, not even Jesus, seems able to make them do it."

- Is it true?
- Do we have less of a voice today?

GO COMPEL...

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- **“What may surprise many if not most Christians is that the beliefs of young Evangelicals over the past several decades have either remained stable or have become more in line with the church’s teachings. In the late 1980s, about 75% of young Evangelicals were certain in their belief in God. Now the number has increased slightly, approaching 80%. Back then, about 55% of young Evangelicals believed that the Bible is the literal Word of God (as opposed to the inspired Word or simply a book of fables). This number has stayed about the same over time. In the 1970s, about 80% of young Evangelicals believed in life after death. Now the percentage is getting closer to 90%. Finally, in the 1970s, only about one-third of young Evangelicals viewed themselves as “strong evangelicals.” Now the number is about 50%.**

GO COMPEL...

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-the percentage of young Evangelicals who pray daily has steadily increased, from about half in the 1980s to over two-thirds currently. Church attendance has likewise trended upward, with about 35% of evangelical youth attending church weekly in the 1970s and 1980s and over 40% now. The data for sharing their faith is based on only three data points, so conclusions are tentative, but it appears that the number of young Evangelicals who share their faith has remained steady if not increased since the late 1980s. While it's entirely natural for us old folks to worry about the young, there isn't a lot of evidence to back up our fears. If anything, today's evangelical youth are even more committed to their Christian beliefs and more active in expressing their faith than we were back in the day. Not only that, but today's youth don't wear the ugly disco clothes and wacky hairstyles of the 1970s."

GO COMPEL...

From Christians are Hate Filled Hypocrites and other lies you've been told. Bradley R.E. Wright, Ph.D.

3. Be Compelling!

- **to have a powerful and irresistible effect, influence,**
- **Show Jesus to people**
 - Jesus cared for people
 - Jesus lifted people up
 - Jesus brought healing
 - Jesus loved people
 - Jesus willingly endured the Cross
 - Jesus conquered death in the resurrection
 - Jesus brought forgiveness

GO COMPEL...

INSERT SELF HERE

3. Be Compelling!

- **But Greg!!!**
 - I am barely holding it together
 - I don't have the energy
 - I don't have the time
 - I am not cut out for this!
 - Acts 1:⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
 - Compelling doesn't mean slick!

GO COMPEL...

INSERT SELF HERE

3. Be Compelling!

- Let them see Jesus who made a difference to you
 - 10 second testimonies
 - “Me” statements not “You” statements
- Talk first about Jesus; NOT Living Hope
- People are rarely argued into the Kingdom of God
 - Don’t be contentious
 - Ask permission to state your case
- Actions alone don’t bring people
- Devotion with integrity impresses;
- A loving invitation brings
- Make it easy and simple

GO COMPEL...

INSERT SELF HERE

3. Be compelling

2 Cor 5: 11 It is because of this solemn fear of the Lord, which is ever present in our minds, that we work so hard to win others. God knows our hearts, that they are pure in this matter, and I hope that, deep within, you really know it too.

¹² Are we trying to pat ourselves on the back again? ...You can boast about us that we, at least, are well intentioned and honest. ¹³-Are we insane to say such things about ourselves? If so, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. (Living Bible)

GO COMPEL...

INSERT SELF HERE

3. Be compelling

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. NIV

GO COMPEL...

INSERT SELF HERE

3. Be Compelling

- Grapple with “lostness”
- The invitation is to a feast- plenty
- A place at the table belonging
- A place with the Master loved

GO COMPEL...

INSERT SELF HERE

4. Compel them to be out of step

- The tendency of our culture is to say that everyone will be at the table
- Yes! Everyone is welcome
- The Truth: Only those who respond to the invitation will be there
- The invitation is to all
- The way is narrow

GO COMPEL...

INSERT SELF HERE

So What?

- Ponder what Jesus has done for you that means something to you. Make a list.
- Create a 10 second testimony for each. Use “I” or “me” statements.
- Determine to live life with integrity. What needs to change? What are you proclaiming that you aren’t doing?
- Spend a few days meditating on what it means to be “lost.” How does it feel?
- Who is God telling you to go to? **Go!**

GO COMPEL...

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