

Sharing The Gospel

Remember, you are sharing hope- in Christ, not winning a verbal tennis match, a moral or theological argument. You are giving them Jesus, not a set of rules or "do's and don'ts. So be careful that what you say does not smack of "be good" first, then come to church. Avoid anything that sounds like, "clean your life up first" then you can come to church. Make sure you demonstrate the same patience and love to them that Jesus has shown to you.

Problem in witnessing is we turn it into a "how to program"; a "witnessing program" or a "formula" we memorized as an assignment in a "witnessing" class somewhere. We begin to feel we've got to follow these "three easy steps" and get them to say these certain words (although some Biblical concepts are essential).

We ought to take all the classes we can and memorize all the Scripture we can; it's all good! But remember, sharing the Gospel is supposed to be out of "OVERFLOW". That is, that your walk with God is real and genuine, and the life of Christ should simply flow out of you (**John 4:10,14**) and splash onto others in love and service to the world.

With that said, lets take a look at a few things.

Here's what Jesus offers

- To the **woman at the well** in **(John 4)**...

Satisfaction over emptiness (of another relationship).

- And the **woman caught in adultery** **(John 8:3ff)**...

Acceptance over condemnation (from the "religious" crowd).

- To **Zachaeus the tax collector** **(John 4)**...

Acceptance over rejection

- To **Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha** **(John 11)**...

Life over death

- **Nicodemus** **(John 3)**

Relationship instead of religion

- **Gadarean demoniac** **(Mark 5, Luke 8:26)**...

Peace / Relief from torment

- **The Rich Young Ruler** **(Luke 18:18)**

Satisfaction in relationship rather than stuff

- **The Storm at Sea (Matthew 8:24)**

Peace over fear

The blind man (John 9)...

Seeing over blindness

Lame man (Acts 3:6/John 5)...

walking over begging

In each of these we see an element of Christ removing their shame, and bringing them honor. He took away guilt and bestowed forgiveness. To those in bondage and gave freedom. This highlights the tragedy of us trying to make people fit into some kind of religious mold, or an expectation of "performance oriented" acceptance. Jesus took broken people and gave them hope.

So I must ask myself, "Am I sharing Jesus' Good News or man's religion: "do this", "don't do that", "be good" and you can come to church."

And, keeping that in mind, here are some simple outlines and conversation starters to help you break the ice in some situations and move toward sharing the Gospel.

The 3 P's

God's got a Plan...
You've got a Problem...
God made Provision... OR...

Roman Road...

Romans 3:23-26...
Romans 5:8 and 17
Romans 6:23...
Romans 10:9-10...
OR...

John 3:16...

God loved...
God gave...
You believe...
You receive... OR...

ABC's

A- Accept
B- Believe
C- Commit OR...

FIRE

F... Friends

I... Interest

R... Relationships

E... Entertainment OR...

2 Diagnostic Questions...

ONE- "Do you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that if you were to die tonight that you'd go to heaven?"

TWO- "If you were to stand before God tonight and He asked you, "Why should I let you into heaven?" What would you tell Him?"

OR...

Or you could just simply tell your friends what Jesus did for you- He accepted you. He forgave you.

Here's how you could approach that (with a smile on your face, of course), "Can I tell you about the most important thing that has ever happened to me?"

Question: What is missing or wrong in all of this?

Answer: that you can't just pray a prayer and be saved.

So the warning is that one praying for salvation must understand that his rest/faith is to be in Jesus, not in saying something... with the hopes that will make god happy, or make god like or accept him. It's the difference between these two questions;

1. "Did you ask Jesus to come into your life?" and
2. "Have you placed your faith in Christ?" or "Is your trust in Christ?"

That's a lot, but don't be scared. Remember that God is working in people before you get there (**Jn. 10:16, Psa. 139:1-18, Eph. 3:20**). The truth is, sometimes you're the first to tell them bout God's love (that's planting the seed), sometimes you're the second or third (that's watering the seed), and sometimes you're there when they are ready to pray and place their trust in Him (bringing in the harvest). Either way it's a win-win situation; you sharing, them listening, God working, you growing more confident in Christ. Boom! Reaching the world with the Good News!