How to Share Your Faith

Have you ever considered sharing your faith with someone only to be frozen by fear as you remember hearing people say things like, “Christians are always trying to shove their beliefs down people’s throats”? Or recalling other Christians being labeled as “religious nuts” because they shared their faith? Most Christians have faced this fear and it is easy to shrink away, fearing we may offend someone, or be labeled as weird. One way to get past this fear is to remember that the gospel is truly a matter of Life and Death for every person on this planet!

We would consider it reprehensible if a capable, healthy man sat by the side of a pool reading a newspaper watching as a young child drowned right next to him, then stated that his lack of rescue was because he didn’t feel it was any of his business to intervene. We would consider that to be ruthless or even downright evil. However, we watch people move closer to death every day, yet we fail to show enough concern or compassion to attempt to spare them from eternal death and punishment.

“... Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.” Hebrews 9:27

The stakes are high and hurt feelings or emotional discomfort seem a small price to pay in order to plant the seed of life to our dying world. Although it is true that everyone must die, not everyone must go to hell. In fact, “The Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Christ Has Given Us A Clear Command

A person’s last words are usually very significant. If you had an opportunity to speak your final words to those who are dearest to you, wouldn’t you convey to them what you thought was most important? Jesus Christ’s last words to His followers as He ascended into heaven were, “Make disciples” (Matthew 28:19). This command, which we call the Great Commission, was not intended merely for His disciples at that time, or even for those who may “have the gift” of evangelism; this command is the responsibility of every man and woman to profess faith in Christ as Lord.

The Five Great Commission Statements:
1. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matt. 28:19-20
2. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” Mark 16:15
3. “And that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” Luke 24:47-48
4. “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” John 20:21
5. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Jesus not only commanded us to make disciples, He commanded us to love one another as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39). Can we really claim to love others as we love ourselves and not be immensely concerned with their eternal salvation? Could we claim to honor Jesus and then be marginally concerned with the reason Jesus gave His life, to redeem and restore the relationship between man and God? We are to model Him as servants of God and one another.
We Are To Model Christ

Christ forsook the luxury of being King of heaven to come down to earth as a servant so that you and I would not be forsaken by God. We were alienated from God by our sin, but God Almighty, in His compassion for sinful humanity, was moved to send His only begotten Son to die and unite the impossible; giving unconditional forgiveness and mercy, yet requiring complete justice and righteousness. It is a miracle that man could be reconciled back to God and to enjoy peace and fellowship with Him. From the days of the Apostles to today God’s people have been spreading the Good News of reconciliation. God wants the lost to come home now, and not be out wandering anymore. He has provided the way, Jesus Christ. It’s simple really, He is the only door God has set-up to come through, and those who enter-in gain heaven and an eternal relationship with God!

2 Corinthians 5:9-14 gives us insight why we should share our faith. Our desire, our goal, and our ambition should be to please God, knowing that we will appear before Him and God will certainly hold us accountable for what we have done with our time, our energy, and our talents here on earth. He has given us all the power (through the Spirit and Word) and the command to preach the Gospel. Knowing the terror of God’s judgment, we should persuade all men to reconcile with Him and escape it. And finally, we are compelled to because of the love of Christ in our lives.

Keep in mind that the work of salvation is God’s job, our job is simply to be obedient to what the Lord has asked of us so sharing your faith does not have to be a fearful experience. It can be as easy as starting what Jesus has meant to you, and what He has done in your life.

There is Value in Your Personal Testimony

Your personal testimony is unique and personal. People can relate to it and are interested in people’s stories. You are the authority on it so it is difficult to argue against.

Develop Your Personal Testimony

Finish these statements by responding to them with 2-3 sentences:

BEFORE I trusted Christ...

HOW I trusted Christ...

SINCE I trusted Christ...

Sharing the gospel is as simple and succinct as finishing those three sentences.

“Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people.” Psalm 105:1

“Sing to the LORD, bless His name; proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.” Psalm 96:2

Further Resources

The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel

This book (or DVD) records Lee Strobel’s attempt to “determine if there’s credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God.” This is a great read if you have questions about Christianity or know someone who does.

Just Walk Across the Room by Bill Hybels

What if you knew that by simply crossing the room and saying hello to someone, you could change that person’s forever? Just a few steps to make an eternal difference. It has nothing to do with methods and everything to do with taking a genuine interest in another human being. All you need is a heart that’s in tune with the Holy Spirit and a willingness to venture out of your ‘Circle of Comfort’ and into another person’s life. Just Walk Across the Room brings personal evangelism into the twenty-first century. Building on the solid foundation laid in Becoming a Contagious Christian, Bill Hybels shows how you can participate in the model first set by Jesus, who stepped down from heaven 2,000 years ago to bring hope and redemption to broken people living in a fallen world. Now it’s your turn. Your journey may not be as dramatic, but it can have a life-changing impact for someone standing a few steps away from you—and for you as well, as you learn the power of extending care, compassion, and inclusiveness under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If you have any questions please contact: Brent Branchaud at 951-279-4477 or bbranchaud@olive-branch.org