

Important things in sharing the Gospel

There are no magic bullets when it comes to sharing the Gospel. It is simply a matter of us being a faithful ambassador of the message of Christ. However there are many guiding principles that can help us to be as **effective as possible**.

1) Simple Message – Communicate the simple truths of the Gospel clearly.

God – It is a message about the One true and living God and His claim on our lives as our Sovereign Creator and Righteous Judge.

Man – Man was created by God, in God's image, to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. But man sinned against God by disobeying His holy law. Man therefore separated himself from God's holy and satisfying presence, and incurred His wrathful displeasure. This is why there is death and suffering in the world.

Christ – Christ's death was the substitute payment for the penalty that we deserved for our sin. His death is God's only provision for the forgiveness of man's sin and the appeasement of God's wrath against him. His life provides a perfect righteousness for us in the sight of God.

Response - We are called to respond to this good news in repentance and belief - turning away from our sin and self-sufficiency toward God, and trusting in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the substitute penalty that we deserved for our sin.

In one sentence, *“Man has been separated from God (the Creator and sustainer of life) because of sin, and sin is why there is death in the world, and Christ is God's provision to atone for man's sins, and man can simply receive God's provision through repentance and faith.”*

Romans 3:21-24 - 21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe**; for there is no distinction; 23 **for all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being **justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus**; NASB

2) Gentleness and Respect – It is important to be a witness with Christian character and integrity. You carry the words of eternal life to dying sinners and you represent the King of virtue. As a witness of Christ therefore, we are to be a witness of Christ's character to others as well as a witness of His message.

1 Peter 3:15 - 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, **always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you**, yet with gentleness and reverence; NASB

Matthew 5:16 - 16 **“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.** NASB

3) Old, Old Story – The Gospel never changes according to the shifting winds of culture or modernity or fads of any kind. It is a message about the historical facts of Jesus Christ and what He HAS accomplished through His life, death and resurrection. Redemption has been accomplished by Christ. It is therefore the fulfillment of the exact requirements of God to meet the demands of His own justice, and Christ performed that perfectly. It ever remains therefore, the unchanging power of God for all who receive it with authentic, persevering faith.

Romans 1:16-17 - 16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous *man* shall live by faith." NASB

4) Personal Savior and Lord – Jesus is a personal Savior and Lord for every individual who believes. This means that each person must come to Him personally and be saved by Him for their own personal sins. Each person must submit to Jesus as Lord, in repentance from sin and personal trust in Him alone as their righteousness before God to be saved.

John 3:36 - 6 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but **he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**" NASB

5) **A Right Response, Faith and Repentance** – It is of utmost importance that we stress upon people their responsibility to **repent of their sins** and make a conscious choice to **trust in Christ** as their righteousness before God. Their must be a public conscious response to Christ of which *baptism* is the crowning event of ones public confession and identification with Christ as both Savior from death and Lord of our life.

6) **A Message about God** – Many people in our era and culture have no fundamental understanding about God, or at best, a flawed view of God which is defined by much error. To make this matter worse, many in our "*postmodern, pluralistic*" culture, people have re-defined God to fit there own criteria of what they want God to be like, rather than who He really is according to reality. Therefore it is important to give people, to some degree, a fundamental and corrected view of God in order to lay a foundation for the Gospel message.

Acts 17:24-25, 30-31 - 24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since **He is Lord of heaven and earth**, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, **since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things**; 30 "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, **God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man** whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." NASB

It is important then to stress that people are estranged from God personally and need to be reconciled to Him personally.

7) **Nothing More Important** – The Gospel is good news of great joy, but it is also a **serious matter of utmost importance**. Undoubtedly we will meet with much resistance if we are faithful to the true Gospel. But we should not let this discourage us. We will need much courage to proclaim the Gospel regularly and accurately. We must ask the question to ourselves, *Which matters more – our reputation or their salvation?* It is a serious matter of utmost importance and a supreme act of love for neighbor to tell people the Gospel.

Luke 13:5 - 5 "I tell you, no, but **unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**" NASB

8) **Keep Learning** – A brand new Christian can tell someone the Gospel, but a seasoned and experienced Christian can do it with much **more accuracy and clarity**. More than this, many will meet us with a variety of questions which need sincere and truthful answers. These answers can give much aid to people who are coming the Christ. Therefore it is important for us to be able to meet these questions with Scripture and explanations from the Bible that address people's most troubling doubts, fears and objections. This usually accompanies people in the early days of embracing the Gospel message.

Colossians 4:4-6 - 5 **Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders**, making the most of the opportunity. 6 **Let your speech always be with grace**, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that **you may know how you should respond to each person.** NASB

9) **God is Sovereign** – It is our responsibility to be a *witness* of the Christ and His Gospel, but it is not our responsibility to somehow change people's hearts. That is God's work. Their salvation remains in **God's effectual call**, not our ability to wrangle them with fine sounding words or skillful apologetic arguments. These may help, but in the final analysis it is the effectual calling of God that brings people to conversion.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 - And when I came to you, brethren, **I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom**, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined to know nothing among **you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified**. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4 And **my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. NASB

Let us therefore be kind, straightforward and gentle in our witness to others. We can be both bold and patient as we depend on God to change their hearts.