

## Why and How Should We Tell Others

1. Our mission: To build up and encourage the body of believers.

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* Matthew 28:19-20 (HCSB)

a. Implications of Matthew 28:19-20

- i. The word “Go” is a command, not a choice
- ii. “make disciples” is not just conversion – it is an invitation to community
- iii. “baptizing” is believing – a genuine desire to follow Christ
- iv. “teaching” is walking along side of; it is relational (mentorship/discipleship)

b. Sharing the gospel is a matter of life and death

*“The Gospel message is not meant to be kept a secret. Fifteen hundred people died on the Titanic that did not have to die, but they did because the captain and his crew did not want to cause a panic among the living. Likewise, many Jesus people do the same, and they drift away in their little Jesus boats without ever sharing the Gospel message because they do not want to cause a panic among the living, and many perish that should never have perished in the first place. Are you going to make an impact for the kingdom in your generation for Christ?”* ~ Tony Evans

2. How we fail in telling others.

a. Insensitivity: We share in a condemning fashion; we fail to practice what we preach.

*For God did not send His Son into the world that He might condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.* John 3:17 (HCSB)

b. Fear: Feelings of inadequacy; lack of Bible knowledge.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.* Romans 1:16 (HCSB)

Information to help us overcome our insensitivities and fear.

Christian websites that provide answers to Biblical questions:

- [www.bible.christiansunite.com](http://www.bible.christiansunite.com)
- [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)

*Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. However, do this with gentleness and respect...* 1 Peter 3:15-16a (HCSB)

### 3. How we can successfully tell others.

Telling others about Jesus arises out of our relationship with God and the body of believers.

This is demonstrated in the following ways:

- Presence
- Persuasion
- Proclamation
- Power
- Prayer

#### a. Living the Christian life in the presence of others.

*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men. You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 5:13-16 (HCSB)

- What is the purpose of the salt?
  - Salt is used for the preservation of meat.
  - Salt is used to add flavor to food.
  - Salt – if enough of it is consumed it causes thirst.
- What does salt represent in the life of a believer?
  - Salt in the life of a believer preserves society from decay and corruption.
  - Salt in the life of a believer adds a different flavor to life that others will desire by challenging them to live to a higher standard.

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- Salt in the life of a believer causes others to thirst for what we have: peace, joy, contentment even in the most difficult of circumstances.

iii. To live the Christian life in the presence of others requires consistency.

*"There is so much of the world in the church, and so much of the church in the world that we can't tell the difference between the two anymore." ~ Dr. David Jeremiah*

*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men. Matthew 5:13 (HCSB)*

iv. What is the purpose of light?

- When we shine a light in the darkness it helps us to find that which we have lost.

v. What does light represent in the life of a believer?

*"Our impact on others should be the same as salt on food, and what light has on darkness... When we tolerate sin in our lives we lose most of our ability to impact others... What determines how bright our light will shine is our character." ~ Dr. Charles Stanley*

**b.** Christian influence through positive persuasion.

*Therefore, because we know the fear of the Lord, we seek to persuade people. We are completely open before God, and I hope we are completely open to your consciences as well. 2 Corinthians 5:11 (HCSB)*

*Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. However, do this with gentleness and respect... 1 Peter 3:15-16a (HCSB)*

What is the positive persuasion?

- Make a friend, be a friend, and Lead a friend to Christ.
- Be a learner: know the other persons needs and interests.
- Initiate conversation.
- Practice empathy – do not interrupt.
- Be a magnet, not a cactus.
- Progress one small step at a time – relationships take time to develop; transformation does not occur overnight.
- Start with what you have in common.

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c. Proclamation through testimony.

- i. Know your story: Follow the apostle Paul's model by sharing what you were like before meeting Christ, what happened when you met Christ, and what has happened since meeting Christ. (see Acts 26:9-23)
- ii. Focus on your Christ encounters through the body of believers.
- iii. Invite family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to church.

*He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah!" (which means "Anointed One"), and he brought Simon to Jesus.* John 1:41-42 (HCSB)

iv. Other types of evangelism:

- Confrontational (see Acts 2)
- Relational – develop relationships. (see Matthew 9:9-13)
- Service – participate in the Christian community; believe, belong, become, and bless. (see Acts 9:36)
- Literature – offer Christian resources such as Bible tracts, books, and magazines.

d. Power of the gospel saves!

*When I came to you, brothers, announcing the testimony of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom. For I didn't think it was a good idea to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a powerful demonstration by the Spirit, so that your faith might not be based on men's wisdom but on God's power.* 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (HCSB)

e. Prayer changes people!

*First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (HCSB)

Praying for others is essential to their salvation because...

*In their case, the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* 2 Corinthians 4:4 (HCSB)

- The "god of this age" is none other than Satan!
- What happens when we don't pray? Nothing!
- Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance – He knows the words that another needs to hear, and will speak through you as you speak to others.

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Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him. James 1:5 (HCSB)

If you don't believe that God can use you to advance the Kingdom, look at the lives of those who were before us...

- Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob were all liars.
- Rahab was a prostitute.
- Peter denied Christ.
- Noah was a drunk.
- Moses stuttered.
- Gideon was afraid.
- Samson was a womanizer.
- Elijah was suicidal.
- John the Baptist was poor.
- Job went bankrupt.
- The Samaritan woman had several failed marriages.
- Martha worried about everything.
- Zacchaeus was too small.
- Lazarus was dead.
- David was an adulterer and a murderer.

God uses ordinary people like you and me to accomplish extraordinary things!

### **Suggested Reading:**

*One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven*

by Mark Cahill

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## Notes

