

I Intro/set up

gobuggo@cox.net

- A. Questions//ATTENTION
- B. At times have we adopted the methods of the Enemy?
 - 1. Christians should be the most compassionate, loving people in the world.
 - 2. Evangelism Conference: General Baptist Assembly
 - a. Sean McDowell Psalm 14:1
- C. Remember at the outset...this is A Battle and MUST BE Approached with and bathed in PRAYER!!! Prayer is part of the Battle Plan AND part of your weaponry! (Eph 5:18,19)
- D. Luke 10:2 harvest is plentiful, laborers are few. BESEECH the Lord of the harvest. Gk to beg, entreat, ask, beseech, implore, pray, make request. Note the urgency here! (RH dict- to implore urgently, beg eagerly, make urgent appeal, adjure urgently or make piteous supplication for aid or mercy). WARNING... this will involve you at the foundational level of Evangelism
- E. Live lives of Integrity first. Then we can speak of Christ to friends, family, neighbors and coworkers convincingly and do it in a loving and winsome manner. Then we can draw men and women to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, by demonstrating the gospel's power in our own lives and speaking the gospel into the lives of others.
 - 1. Joe Aldrich : Life-Style Evangelism: The "Beauty" is recognized when you love the brethren (Jn 13:34,35).
 - a. This workshop is not so much to teach you how to say the words of the gospel, but to encourage you to play the "beautiful music of the gospel" so that others can see, hear, and experience it
 - b. Listening is an act of Love
 - 2. I Beg to Differ by Tim Muehlhoff. Navigating Difficult Conversations with Truth and Love
 - 3. Mt 5:14 "Ye are... (pl)
 - 4. Mt 5:16 Psa 18:28 Psa 119:105
 - 5. Personal examples. Sometimes your witness goes out to a believer, sometimes unbeliever. Fish constantly. Cast a line and see what bites. Advanced troops keep eyes open for friend or foe.

II Definitions. What is it that God wants us to do?

- A. Witness Acts 1:8
 - 1. Witness def. (Greek...no help here)
 - a. Random House unabridged dict. Witness- "to see or know by personal presence or perception. To bear witness to; to testify to; to give or afford evidence of. One who signs a document in attestation of the genuineness of its creation."
 - 2. Concise def. One who testifies or tells of something he knows, has experienced, or perceived.
 - 3. See Jn 9:24,25. This witness of Christ told ONLY what he knew to be true (by his own experience).
 - 4. Psa 51:12,13 God's salvation. Sustain a willing spirit. Teach transgressors Gods way. Sinners will be converted to the LORD.
 - 5. Simple definition: Sharing _____ in the power of the _____ and leaving the results to _____.

- B. Eternal Life. One of our goals in witnessing is to give this person an opportunity to embrace Eternal Life. What is Eternal Life??? See Jn 17:3 and Jesus DEFINES E.L.
- C. Evangelism (the word is not used in N.T.). Evangelist- (Gk) bringer or bearer of good news. Used 3 times in NT
 - 1. There is a man Scripture calls the Evangelist. Phillip: Acts 21:8...cmpr 8:5 to see his actions. AND see 8:12 Good News and preached THE NAME
 - 2. Eph 4:11,12 The gift of Evangelist is to be used to train others in evangelism. Note that the Evangelist's purpose is to equip the believers for the work (in this case...evangelism). This means that the evangelist is the TEACHER and the rank and file Christian is the WORKER in evangelizing.
- D. Great Commission. Mt 28:19,20
 - 1. Authority comes from Christ (who has ALL AUTHORITY).
- E. Gospel. A clear presentation is I Cor 15:3-7. I Cor 15:11 (preach it so they believe it).
- F. In a Battle there is (by definition) an enemy.
 - 1. NOTE: the person you are witnessing to IS NOT THE ENEMY. They are POWs. They may have been brainwashed by the ENEMY but they are NOT THE ENEMY.
 - 2. Who is the Enemy?
 - 3. Don't go into battle naked. (Eph 6:10-19)
 - a. Wear your armor Eph 6:10,11
 - b. Take up your Sword (vs 17)
 - c. Arm yourself with Prayer vss 18,19 this is part of your weaponry. It deals with the "utterance of the gospel"
 - d. Hand Illustration applied by Psalm 144:1 Get your training from the MASTER SWORDSMAN. How well trained are you in the use of your SWORD. What will you tell the Master one day if He asks you how much training you did with your Sword? Are you becoming proficient? Are you becoming a Master? Are you training and training and then never going into battle?
 - 4. The person you are witnessing to should not perceive that this is a battle. We should be loving them into the Kingdom.

III. Manner of presentation : note...please avoid giving yourself "self-inflicted wounds"

- A. Avoid brutal, judgmental, aggressive, abrasive, abusive statements. This is a POW you are speaking to, NOT THE ENEMY. Remember the Sean McDowell lesson.
 - 1. Col 4:5,6 (context vs 3) As you witness maintain civility and courtesy.
 - 2. We are instead, to do as Christ did...proclaim release to the captives. Lk 4:18,19
- B. Proclamation of the Good News is to be done with gentleness and with reverence
 - 1. I Pet 3:15 gentleness (humility, meekness)
 - 2. Reverence (Gk fear of God, respectful, sense of awe)
- C. Maintaining loving and gentle conversation. See I Beg to Differ (Navigating Difficult Conversations with Truth and Love).
 - 1. How do we communicate with people who disagree with us?
- D. Quick Summary of a few points from "I Beg to Differ"
 - 1. Managing and expressing emotions in the midst of disagreement
 - 2. What this person believes.
 - 3. Why this person believes this. HS will at times reveal this to you
 - 4. What areas of agreement do we have?
 - 5. The rule of reciprocation

6. Based on all I've learned how do I proceed?
7. Person-centered communication versus position-centered
8. You can maintain love/compassion. Be sure to avoid hateful or brutal speech (remember S.McDowell)

IV. Method. Q: would most of you agree that the hardest person to witness to is a self-proclaimed Atheist? If you can witness to an Atheist, you can witness to anyone. A harder person to witness to could be the Religious Sinner, or the person with Emotional Objections to Christ. But the Atheist is HARD

- A. Imagine a relationship of mutual respect and regard with an Atheist where you can express your most deeply held beliefs in an open manner.
 1. Remember your goal should be to win a hearing, not necessarily to win an argument or debate. Don't burn your bridges...it's always about the NEXT Conversation .

V. Battle Plan

A. Prepare Yourself

1. Hand Illustration
2. Theology
3. Apologetics
4. Strength: Psa 68:28,34,35

B. Pray to God

1. For laborers
2. For opportunities...APPLICATION
3. The right POW to match your abilities

C. Proceed with Battle.

VI. Call to Battle

- A. Joshua before Jericho. He talked to the commander of the LORD'S Armies
 1. Josh 5:13-15
- B. Courage and Valor. Valiant- bold, courageous, brave, stouthearted, showing valor (boldness or determination in facing great danger)
 1. Ps 60:11,12
 2. Ps 108:13
 3. Ps 118:15b,16
- C. The Fellowship of the Unashamed (see Rm 1:16)

"I am a part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed." The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.

I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure.

I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals. My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my guide reliable, my mission clear.

I won't give up, back up, let up or shut up until I've preached up, prayed up and paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ.

I must go until He returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colors will be clear. For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ."

D. If not now...when? If not me...who?

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