

5 Commitments to Change Your Life Forever
#5 The Commitment to Share Your Faith
October 6, 2019 Todd Kleinhans

What does it mean to share your faith?
Why do we need to share our faith?
How do we share our faith?

Sharing your faith is telling someone else about Christ and how he has impacted your life.



Our job as Christians is to be a witness.
We are not the judge.
We are not the jury.
We are not the prosecutor.

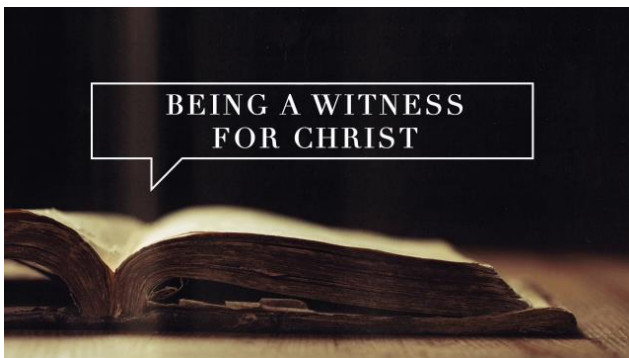
Our job is to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

Sometimes when we're witnessing to someone, we get a little off track. Maybe we're talking to someone and we think it's our job to be the judge or the jury. But that's not our job. ***We're a witness.***

It's not our job to go up to an unsaved person who is a homosexual and beat them over the head with what the Bible says about homosexuality.

The job of a witness, in a courtroom, is to tell the truth about what we have seen and heard and experienced.

The witness tells about his experience. He gives evidence.
He does not make a decision.



The witness doesn't give the verdict. He simply presents the evidence.
The decision is made by someone else.

As Christians who believe in Jesus, we are witnesses of the gospel.

What is the gospel?

Paul tells us in ***1 Corinthians 15:1-5*** ***Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, 5 and that he appeared to Peter and then to the Twelve.***

Then he goes on to give more evidence about how Jesus also appeared to hundreds of people after his resurrection.

Paul says, here's the gospel: ***Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day.*** Here's why I believe this to be true.

Now I have a feeling that when we say we have witnessed to someone and shared the gospel with them, that there was probably not a lot of this included in what we said.

We might have invited them to church, nothing wrong with that.

We might have told them about the back to school block party, nothing wrong with that.

But we are probably not walking up to people we know who aren't saved and saying, ***"Jesus Christ died for your sins. He was buried, and he rose on the third day."***

Do you know someone who isn't saved? Someone at work? Someone at home?

We all know someone who doesn't know Jesus. What are we doing about that? Too many Christians today think that sharing our faith is optional. It isn't.

Why do we need to share our faith?

Jesus said in ***Mark 16:15*** ***Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not will be condemned.***

As believers, we possess good news that will save people's lives. Why would we not tell them that news?

Here's why:

"If I talk about my faith, my friends might think I'm being disrespectful or judgmental."

"I don't want to force religion on anyone. People don't like to hear about that."

"It isn't socially acceptable to talk about religion."

"I don't want to offend anyone."

"I'm afraid they'll think I'm weird or reject me."

"I want to share my faith, but I don't know how."

How did you become a Christian? Someone told you about Jesus, and you believed.

Are you glad someone told you the good news of the gospel message?

Then why would we be afraid to share it with others? We can live a good Christian life and show the love of Jesus wherever we go, but people also need to hear the good news.

We need to tell them.

How did you become a Christian?

Romans 10:13-14 For Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? and how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Look! It says right there that someone has to preach the gospel message!

Oh, that's the preacher's job! We have people for that. I can't do that. I'm not a preacher. I'm a truck driver.

No, **it is every believer's responsibility to share our faith.** But don't be scared. It's not hard. Saving people isn't your job, it's the Holy Spirit's job.

We are not the judge. We are not the jury. We are merely witnesses to what we have experienced.

Sharing our faith doesn't mean we have to preach at people.

Sharing our faith doesn't mean we have to memorize the Bible or take public speaking classes.

We do need to be studying the Word. ***We do need to be praying for the salvation of people we know who aren't saved.***

On top of all that, the best witness for Christ you have with you, every day, at work, at home, with your friends, wherever you go . . . is the way you live your life.

As you live a godly life, not acting like those who are of the world, but living for the Lord in all you say and do, and you do this consistently, then you will see opportunities to share Christ with others.

Living a good Christian life is not a substitute for sharing the gospel with others. Living a good Christian life is the starting point.

The best way to share your faith isn't to preach to people everywhere you go, but to love people everywhere you go.

As we love people daily, this will open up opportunities for us to share our faith.

So here we are, sitting in church. We agree that as Christians, we have faith that God did what he did through Jesus to pay the price for all our sin and save us forever.

We agree that as Christians, we are to be sharing our faith with those around us.

But, we're still apprehensive. We're shy about it. We don't want people to think we're weird. Maybe, we don't know how.

How do we share our faith?

First, live a godly life.

Show up to work on time. Work hard. Be honest.

Don't join in with the gossip that goes on around you. Don't join in when others are talking bad about someone at work.

Don't complain. People love to complain. And they love to draw others in along with them when they're complaining.

The boss is a jerk.
So-and-so is a cow.
The world is a mess.

We don't need to get caught up in that negative conversation.

Be the only employee at work who doesn't lie on their time card.
Be the only one who isn't stealing stuff, or sleeping on the job.

In other words, in everything you do. At work. At home. When you're with your friends. Do it all for the glory of God. Be different. ***Act like a Christian.***

If you don't know what a Christian should act like, read the Bible.

Second, if you're serious about your relationship with God, you will feel sad for the lost people you know. This is automatic. The closer you are to the Lord in your Christian walk, the more you will be aware of the lost state of your unsaved friends. And you will want to do something about it.

So the second thing is, ***keep working on your own walk with God.***

Third, Pray for your lost friends. Their salvation is not in our hands. God has it covered. And God is counting on us to show them the way to Christ. Pray that the Holy Spirit gives you opportunities to plant seeds. God can make those seeds grow.

Fourth, plant the seeds.

Sharing your faith is telling someone about Christ and how he has impacted your life.

Now we've come down to the nitty gritty. How do we tell people about Jesus? How do we share our faith?

It's ok to be prepared. It'd ok to plan this out ahead of time, so you know what to say.

Too many times in the past, when I've had opportunities to share my faith with people, I opened my mouth and started talking, but soon found out – I wasn't prepared.

I knew what I wanted to say, but I didn't know how to say it.

So here are some tools to help you. There are several methods to share your faith. Keep in mind – not every method works for everyone. Use the one that works for you.

As long as you are communicating the truth of the gospel, it doesn't matter what method you use. But I have found that it helps to have something in your mind ahead of time, so you'll know what to say when the time comes.

I'm going to give you a couple examples, but first, some ground rules:

1. Don't be a jerk.

A lot of times, when we talk to others about our faith and someone disagrees, or has their own opinion, it can turn into a heated argument.

Be a good listener. Listen to their horror stories about church or religion. Respond with kindness. Respect their feelings. If you listen to them, they will be more willing to listen to you.

2. Be honest.

When you start sharing your faith, don't go into an imaginary phone booth and change into your "Super Spiritual Christian" suit. Super spiritual Christian knows everything, has no doubts, never sins, never worries.

Stop it. If you're afraid of losing respect by admitting your faults, you'll find out that you will actually gain respect by just being honest. Don't be afraid to be honest. You're just a normal person, not a spiritual super hero.

3. Ordinary conversations matter most.

You're not presenting a sales pitch for Jesus. It's ok to have a method, so you have an idea of what to say and you're not stumbling around with your words, but don't present it like it's an infomercial.

Just have a regular conversation. If people don't want to talk about it, you're not going to convince them by talking louder and faster.

4. Share what you know.

Personal stories go a long way. Your testimony – my life used to be like this, I was into all kinds of crazy stuff. But then someone told me about Jesus and here's what he means to me. He died on the cross and took away my sin. He paid my ransom. I deserved to be punished forever, but he paid my fine and now I'm free.

5. Share the actual gospel.

We can talk about a lot of different things, but when it comes down to it, the gospel message isn't about morality, hell, church, or the trunk or treat thing we're doing.

These are not bad things to talk about, but the message of the gospel is that Jesus came to save sinners. This is of first importance.

6. Don't talk too much.

When we share our faith, sometimes we get excited and want to say a lot. I want to go into detail about his crucifixion, his resurrection, but I need to remember that a conversation is not a speech. Slow down. Do a lot of listening, and trust God.

7. Stay with it.

Becoming a Christian can take a long time. Sometimes when people hear the gospel they believe right away. The Holy Spirit has been working on them and they are ready to become a Christian immediately.

But a lot of people need time. They need to ask questions. They have doubts. Be patient and let God do his work in them. Stay with them over time for as long as it takes. There is no greater work you can be doing with such eternal benefits.

With these things in mind, here's one method of sharing your faith that might be good for you. If you like it, use it. If not, do something else.

If you want to learn some other ways to talk about your faith with others, you can do a google search for, "how do I share my faith with others?" or "How do I share the gospel?" But be careful. There is false information on the internet. What?

But there are also a lot of good ideas on how you can be prepared to share your faith with others. Test everything against the Word of God.

One method is called the ***Romans Road***.

This is a great method where you get to take your friend by the hand and walk with them on a journey, a short journey, through the Book of Romans. You touch on a few key verses that allows them to see Jesus at the end, and why they need to be saved.

The journey starts with the human problem of sin.

Romans 3:10 There is no one righteous, not even one.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Then it goes into why sin is a problem. Because people may not know.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death . . .

Sin is in the world and in the life of every person. God is a righteous judge and cannot allow sin to go unpunished. But there is hope.

The rest of *Romans 6:23 . . . but the gift of God is eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

How can he do this? If he is a righteous judge and all sin must be punished?

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

It is true that the wages of sin is death. Any sin. Whether you murder someone or tell a small lie, the wages of sin is death.

God loves us so much, that he sent his own perfect son to pay that price through his death. He took the punishment for our sin.

So what do we have to do? How do I get forgiveness and escape the punishment I deserve?

Romans 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is

with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

So what now? What's the bottom line?

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

This is one method that helps us put some structure into the process of sharing our faith.

Here's one more method. I like this one.

You're talking to someone you know. Someone you have established a relationship with who isn't saved. There is trust between you.

Let's call this **The Courtroom.**

Hebrews 12:23 God is the judge of all.

I know for a fact that Jesus came to earth, died for my sins and rose again on the third day. But the person I'm talking to doesn't know that. I need to explain this to them in a compelling way, so they not only believe it is true, but feel compelled to do something about it.

So, in the course of a conversation, we start talking about church or God.

And I'll ask, ***"Do you believe in God?"***

Friend: ***"Well, I'm not sure. I don't really know. Probably."***

Me: ***"Well, if there is a God, what do you think he's like?"***

Friend: ***"He would have to be good and loving. I don't think he's the kind of judgmental God that people say he is."***

Me: ***"Ok, do you believe in a heaven and a hell?"***

Friend: ***"I don't know. Maybe heaven, but not hell."***

Me: ***"If there is a hell, who decides whether people go to heaven or hell?"***

Friend: ***"I don't believe there's a hell. Everybody goes to heaven."***

Me: ***"Oh yeah, what about Adolph Hitler?"***

Friend: ***"No, definitely not him."***

Me: ***"So there must be a hell. The Bible says there is a heaven and a hell."***

Friend: ***"Ok. If you say so."***

Me: ***"Who decides who goes to heaven and who goes to hell? Someone needs to make that decision."***

Hebrews 12:23 God is the Judge of all.

Me: ***"If you were standing before God and he asked you, 'why should I let you into heaven?' what would you say?"***

Friend: Lots of different answers. ***"I think God would overlook the bad I've done and look at the good things I've done."***

Me: ***"What is the job of a judge? Not to look at the good you've done, but to judge you on the wrong you've done."***

"God is the judge, and he judges according to his law. Part of God's law is the ten commandments. Do you know any of the ten commandments?"

Friend: ***"Uh, don't kill anyone . . ."***

Me: ***"Have you ever told a lie?"***

Friend: ***"Yes."***

Me: ***"What do we call someone who tells a lie?"***

Friend: ***"A liar."***

Me: ***"Have you ever taken anything that wasn't yours?"***

Friend: ***"Yes."***

Me: ***"And what do we call someone who takes something that isn't theirs?"***

Friend: ***"A thief."***

Me: ***"Have you ever committed adultery?"***

Friend: ***"No. I'm a faithful husband."***

Me: ***"Jesus said if we even look at another woman with lust with lustful thoughts, we have already committed adultery with her in our heart. Have you ever looked at a woman and had lustful thoughts about her?"***

Friend: ***"Come on! Everybody does that!"***

Me: ***"So, by your own admission, you're a lying, thieving adulterer. I'm not judging you, this is what you've just admitted to me."***

"God judges those who break his law. What good judge lets the breaking of his law go unpunished? Would this happen in any courtroom on earth? Would a judge in a courtroom sit there while you admit you have broken his laws and say, 'Well, I'm just going to look at the good things you've done and overlook the bad?"

No good judge would do that. It's his job to bring justice and punish those who break the law.

"What do you think the punishment is for those who break God's laws? For anyone who sins?"

Friend: ***"I don't know."***

Me: ***"Hell. That's God's punishment for anyone who sins. Whether they tell a lie or kill a thousand people. The punishment is the same. The wages of all sin is death."***

Friend: *"That doesn't seem fair."*

Me: *"But there's hope. God became a man and paid our fine."*

"I was a lawbreaker. I deserved to be punished with eternal death in hell. But he took my place on the cross. When he did that, he paid my fine."

"Your case can be dismissed. Wiped clean."

"God can legally dismiss your case."

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

And this is a good place to give your testimony. This is how I lived my life before I gave my life to Christ, but then, when I realized what he did for me on the cross, here's what my life has been like since.

One of the most important things we need to be doing as Christians is sharing our faith. We live a godly life, we study the scriptures, we pray for those who need to be saved, and we share the gospel with those who need to hear the good news.

There are lots of different ways to share your faith. If you seek opportunities to do it, they will present themselves.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

