

Sharing the Gospel Practically

The last couple of newsletters have been an attempt to encourage you to share your faith with others. Some have asked me how do you do it? Many think because they don't know scripture that they can't share with anyone, some think that they would stuff it up if they tried as they don't know a lot of things them self. Here are some Golden Rules for sharing your beliefs with someone:

1. DO NOT get into any argument of scripture, religion or beliefs, it will never end!
2. DO NOT assume something is right, if you don't know the answer tell them, and then see if you can find out the answer for yourself as well.
3. DO NOT quote preachers, or yours is the best church as it may not be the best thing for that person.
4. DO NOT even attempt to answer questions of "why does God do this in Africa to small children, or why are there so many rules or why this or why that".... The only thing the listener needs to know is that Jesus loves them, he died for their sin, he paid the price so that when they die they don't go to hell. Jesus paid the price for us, everything else is irrelevant!
5. DO NOT "bag" someone out in another church, or another persons belief, did you know that Jesus even died for the Muslims and they are worth saving!
6. A good way to share the gospel with someone is use a tract, most tracts have verses in them that you can refer to and point out to people.
7. You don't need to know a zillion verses, Romans road to salvation is quite sufficient, they go in this order of reading **Romans 3v23; Romans 6v23; Romans 5v8; Romans 3v10; Romans 10v9,10**. Will lead a person to know Jesus and accept what he has to offer, all you need to do is memorise **Romans 3v23**, then beside that one write the next verse, then go there and write the next verse and so on.
8. Use everyday language, not hallelujah, praise the Lord etc as sometimes this really turns people off. It is called "churchianity".
9. Ask them do they understand what you are saying, use things in your life to explain if necessary.
10. Ask them bluntly "Will you give Jesus your life today, are you willing to walk the best you can in Gods ways. If you don't ask them, they won't know!"

How else can we share the Gospel practically with people? Practise what you preach! Don't be a "Fake" as most people can see straight through fake Christians. Be honest, have integrity in what you say, if you are not concerned weather a person is going to heaven or hell, get concerned! You may be the only Christian they may ever know in their life or meet. God has given us a gift so precious, eternal life, victory and all those things you believe in, are you a stingy person and don't want to share it with others? God only gives us Jesus so that we can share him with others, not to keep him wrapped up in the comforts of our own home and material things. Jesus said, go and make disciples in **Matthew 28v18** and in **mark 16** he said go and preach the gospel, Jesus also said if you truly love me, you will obey my commandments. Do you truly love him?

Some people make up some pretty lame excuses, I am not an evangelist, I am shy, I am this or I am not that, sorry, Jesus did not give no exceptions!! It would be a little bit like, when we buy a new car or bike, or something nice, we tend to "happen" to drop around to everyone's place and show it off! We brag on things that God does for us or has given us to our Christian brothers and sisters, yet we clam up when it comes to those who are yet to be saved. The Bible tells us that the disciples preached the word and signs followed, and we ask why we don't see any signs, maybe it is because we don't preach to people.

The biggest buzz I get out of life is immediately after I have shared Jesus with someone, I mean I have some pretty good times with other Christians sharing the word, but I get a bigger buzz sharing it with someone who doesn't know Jesus! How else can we share the gospel practically? By being a Christian 24/7! Don't be one of those people who go to church on a Sunday and then throughout the rest of the week, all you ever do is fly off the handle at people, you swear, drink to excess, carry on like a two bob watch and all those things people would not "expect" a Christian to be or do. I drive a School bus at the moment with disabled kids, I have 2 carers on my bus, they are both unsaved, but many times they have commented, Roscoe is not like that he is one of them "Born Again" people, yet at the same time they love hearing me share about what God has done in and through my life.

Be honest with people, like I done a funeral the other day and the people asked me if I would come back to the pub with them, I did, they asked me if I wanted a beer, I declined explaining that I had to drive a school bus and my alcohol limit had to be Zero, they said do you drink though, I told them I did not mind a Bourbon every now and again, I told them I would have had a drink with them if I didn't have to drive that afternoon. They said but your a priest, I corrected them nicely explaining I was a Chaplain, and that the Bible

tells us not to get drunk or drink to excess or continuously, that having a beer or a rum was fine but we need to know when to stop. This alone opened up a massive door for me to share Jesus with many that were there at the funeral. They saw that I didn't think I was "Better than them" and that I was a bloke who could sit in the pub with them and not have to have a drink, they were impressed.

Look for opportunities to bring Jesus into a conversation, or maybe not so much as Jesus as in witnessing but mention the Bible, or what God has done in your life. Always look for signs of "I don't want to hear this crap" in the person you're talking to as you may just be offending them too and turning them right off, you may have to back away a little. The Bible tells us that one person plants a seed and another person waters the seed while yet another may reap the harvest. Witnessing to someone does not necessarily mean you lead them in the sinners prayer, just plant Godly thoughts in their life!