

## TELLING OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS

### Lesson 5: How to Have Spiritual Conversations with Non-Christians

**REVIEW:** The Christian's responsibility is to bring Christ to non-Christians; it is God's responsibility to bring non-Christians to Christ. We bring Christ to non-Christians by making acquaintances, building friendships, and engaging in conversations with non-Christians, while trusting God to open doors to tell the Good News of salvation through Christ. Contacts lead to conversations and conversations lead to conversions.

Philippians 2: 3-8 provides the pattern for effective relational evangelism.

1. Think differently about what it means to be a Christian and to be the church. It is not so much about coming to the church, as it is being the church, by walking as Jesus walked to seek & save the lost (Philippians 2: 3-5).
2. Free myself to become involved with non-Christians (Philippians 2: 6-7a).
3. Connect with lost people in sustained and sacrificial relational ministry to win them to Christ (Philippians 2: 7b-8).

#### HOW TO TURN A CONVERSATION INTO AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS

1, You will never have a conversation with a non-Christian until you first intentionally seek to make contact with a non-Christian. Like Jesus you are to be a "friend of sinners" without being intimidated by differences in beliefs, values, and lifestyle; do not expect the non-Christian to become a cultural Christian before he is a converted Christian. Bottom line, although Jesus expects COMMUNICATION without CONTAMINATION, we cannot communicate effectively without CONTACT.

*This man receives sinners and eats with them.*

Luke 15: 2

*You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven. Matthew 5: 13-16*

2. There is only ONE gospel message but, since people differ, there are MANY ways to to introduce the message.

*I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.*

Effectiveness in reaching people for Christ is directly related to the ability to "become," the ability to understand, identify with, and relate to the person you are talking to.

3. Those most effective in telling others the good news are not those who are great TALKERS but those who are great LISTENERS. Learn to ask good questions and practice good listening in order to get to know the person as a unique and valued individual and show an interest in the world in which they live. Begin by asking questions every person is an expert on - their family, their job, their background, & their interests. The entire time be listening for a way to move the conversation to spiritual things.

**Examples of questions to ask: Where are you from? Were you born there? How long have you lived here? Do you enjoy where you are living now? Are you married? Where is your spouse from? How did you meet? Do you have brothers or sisters? Where do they live? How many are in your present family? What are their interests? What do you do for a living? How long have you worked there? Do you enjoy it? What do you or don't you enjoy? Have any hobbies or interests? What do you do for rest and relaxation? If you could do anything you wanted to for a job what would it be?**

**As they share their answers look for opportunities to express:**

- **ACCEPTANCE** which will make them feel secure with you.
- **APPRECIATION** which will make them feel liked by you.
- **AVAILABILITY** which will make them feel important to you.

*If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.* **James 2: 8**

**4. While talking to the person always whisper a prayer to God asking Him to provide the opportunity to turn the conversation to spiritual things and to give you boldness to do so.**

*...that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel.* **Ephesians 6: 19**

**5. Proceed from the SECULAR, to the SPIRITUAL and then to the GOSPEL.**

**Having asked questions (point 3 above) to get to know the person you are sharing with, you can now look for opportunities to ask questions like: Do you enjoy reading about religious topics or subjects? Have you become involved in any church in your area? Have you ever examined some of the teachings of the Bible? With so many interests are you interested in spiritual things? Why do you think a lot of people across the world have an interest in some kind of religion or another? From time to time some people talk about Christ and Christians. Who, in your opinion, is Jesus Christ? Why do you suppose the problems of the world seem to be getting worse than better? What in your opinion is the number one thing people are looking for in their lives? Why do you think so many people seem unhappy with life in general? What do you think is in store for the future? A lot of people seem worried. What, in your opinion, worries people the most?**

**As they respond to your questions look for the opportunity to share your testimony, go into the gospel, and share how a person experiences salvation. This can be simply done by pointing out that the most important thing in life is to know where we are going when we die. Ask the question, "Has anyone ever taken the Bible and shown you how you can know you are going to heaven?" If they say "No," then ask, "May I?" If they say "Yes," then share the Bad News/Good News presentation of the gospel (Lesson #3).**

**6. A humble ATTITUDE, not a hostile ARGUMENT will win the lost to Christ.**

*Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth...* **2 Tim. 2: 23-25**