

Taking It Personal! (4)
Building Courage-Tips and Tools

INTRODUCTION

- A. Review – An Approach That Works
1. These suggestions are offered with a firm conviction that they will be carried out and with the hope that you will accept the challenge to implement these suggestions that our opportunities to share the gospel will be increase!
 2. REMEMBER THE THREE SIMPLE STEPS:
 - a. Create a loving and edifying church
 - b. Utilize a prayer list
 - c. Invite people to services
 3. This simple approach is not only successful in saving and keeping souls; it is one of the most natural and easiest ways to reach the lost for Christ.
 4. Even if we don't convert a single soul, we would have fulfilled our obligation to share Christ with others and we will have become better Christians, congregation, friends, neighbors and coworkers!
 5. Are YOU and I doing what WE can to reach out to the lost?
- B. After a lack of motivation, a major reason why more people do not engage in personal evangelism is the fear of rejection. Afraid of being turned down, laughed at, or looked upon by others as "religious fanatics" has hindered many Christians in their efforts to telling others about Christ.
1. How do WE overcome the fear of rejection?
 2. Try to please God, not man! GA 1:10.
 3. Even though we should give thought to how we can present the gospel more effectively, we should be more concerned about what God thinks, rather than what people may think.

DISCUSSION

- I. OVERCOMING REJECTION
- A. How do WE overcome the fear of rejection?
 - B. Pray for boldness. 1 CO 2:1-3; EP 6:18-19; Acts 4:29-31.
 - C. If we find ourselves lacking courage, then pray for boldness. Before we communicate with others, we should pray.
- II. THREE STEPS
- A. What three steps can we take in building courage to tell others about Christ?
 - B. Start with an indirect approach and then more direct.
 1. Select tracts you feel are good and carry them in your pocket, purse, car, etc. You can leave them with your tip, send them friends with letters, leave them in Laundromats, taxi's, bus, rest room, etc.
 2. Even though it may be waste paper to some, you are sowing the seed!
 3. This is one way the written word can last longer than the spoken word!
 - C. Let your light shine!
 1. You can quietly confess Christ through your actions and speech. There is a difference in doing things to be seen of men and doing things that are seen by men.
 2. You can pray in public places for food. Don't be ashamed to be seen reading the Bible and keeping it publicly visible. In casual conversation, make mention of things that indicate your faith.

"I will keep you in mind in my prayers."

“In our Sunday Bible study, we learned...”

“Lord willing...”

“I thank God for my good health.”

3. Casual conduct and expressions, not only build courage, but serve as “door-openers” for people to inquire about your faith.

D. Identify yourself and handout material.

In beginning to face people,

Give a tract and say, “This is a short explanation of the gospel of Christ. We’ve been friends for a long time and I would like for you to read this and tell me what you think.”

Ask if they are interested in a Bible study on their own time, at their own pace, in their home, through a correspondence course.

Offer them a DVD a sermon and ask if they would be interested in hearing what the Bible says about...” Or, “Search For Truth” DVD!

Refer people to our web site (www.cartersvillechurchofchrist.org) and encourage them to review sermons, ask questions, study on their own, etc.

III. TIPS TO REMEMBER

- A. If you decide you are ready to begin teaching others, be sure to have a lesson plan and keep several principles in mind to improve your success.

- B. The following are some scriptures to support some key principles:

1. Maintain a spirit of gentleness and humility, but for the grace of God you would be lost too! GA 6:1.
2. Refuse to quarrel, admit your own faults and suggest to continue to study. 2 TI 2:23-24.
3. Don’t try to teach until you are able. JA 3:1-2; Cf. 2 TI 2:24.

- C. The following are some continued scriptures to support some key principles.

1. Be patient. Some people may take longer than others. 2 TI 2:24.
2. If necessary correct others with humility. 2 TI 2:25.
3. Remember Solomon’s words. PR 15:1-2.
4. Remember those in error are trapped by Satan. 2 TI 2:26.
5. We need to use the “sword of the Spirit” properly – EP 6:17.
6. Be “Class” Conscious – Set-up Bible studies. This determines whether someone is really interested, gives you time to prepare, allows more productive time to answer questions, minimizes hindrances. Just ask someone!
7. Seek First To Be Understood, Then To Be Understood – Ask questions and listen carefully. Repeat what they say to make sure you understand. Know their doctrine as well or better than they do. Put yourself in their place and imagine what they must feel.
8. Disagree Without Being Disagreeable – Be humble, refuse to quarrel, be prepared to teach, be patient, correct others with gentleness, use soft words. Use the “sword of the Spirit” properly.
9. Answer Questions By Letting Inquirers Read It For Themselves – Let people answer questions with the Scriptures. Use an open Bible and have them read it for themselves. Why? Reading and hearing has more impact on the point being made. It is hard to disagree when someone reads it for themselves. You gain respect and confidence in teaching only God’s work, and not man’s ideas.
10. Use Difficult Questions To Set Up Future Studies – Don’t bluff your way through a subject you are unprepared for. Admit you need to study further. Use the difficult question set up another study period.

11. Close Effectively – Ask others, “Does this make sense? Is there anything I have said that you do not understand? Have I been teaching you anything other than what the Bible teaches?” Then, “Would you like to obey Christ now and be baptized for the remission of your sins?” If no keep encouraging and sowing.

CONCLUSION

- A. We can overcome the fear of rejection by trying to please God, not people and praying for boldness!
- B. Remember the three steps to building courage:
Indirect Approach: (1) - Non-Face-To-Face Encounters and (2) - Letting Your Light Shine Before Men. Direct Approach: (3) - Identify Yourself and Hand-Out Material.
- C. We should prepare ourselves to teach and answer objections, but the decision to become a Christian is theirs. Remember to be patient, humble, and gentle. Recall and practice some the tips.
- D. Let the gospel be the converting power, not by “persuasive words of human wisdom” (1 CO 2:4). If a person understands the gospel, a simple request and an earnest plea for obedience to Christ should suffice.
- E. To God Be the Glory!