

Christ Conversations

Part 1 – Pre-Evangelism

- **The healthiest form of evangelism will come through a vibrant faith in Christ**

John 15:5 – “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

1 Thessalonians 1:8-9 – “The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.”

– Do you know and love Jesus? Is God the source of joy in your life? If so, evangelism will be so much easier than if it comes from a place of legalism.

- **We need to have a solid grasp of the gospel, and basic theology. Who is God? What is the Bible? How are we saved? Etc.**

• We want to be solid in Theology 101 (sanctification, justification, etc.) and Bible 101 (the narrative arc of Scripture, how God is moving through history).

- **You have to be intentional and committed to creating evangelistic opportunities.**

– Are you involved in your community in ways that will lead you to form friendships with unbelievers?

– Do you know any non-believers, or are all your friends believers?

- **But remember... people feel used if you ONLY talk about conversion with them, like they are a project or a box to check off**

– Be interested in their personal life. Family, hobbies, backstory, etc.

– Don’t make every conversation intense.

- **“Play the long game” and build friendships**

– The odds of someone accepting Christ immediately upon your first presentation is small, but we play the long game. Evangelism sometimes takes years.

– Show people you care for ALL of them: body, mind, and soul. It’s hard to talk about the deep things of life on an empty stomach, or when you don’t have a roof over your head.

- **Practice talking about your faith APART from evangelism, in everyday conversation**

“I was praying...”

“I read in my Bible this morning...”

“Jesus comforted me when I was going through...”

“The Lord gave me strength...”

- **Awkwardness does NOT mean you shouldn’t evangelize!**

– There is going to be some level of awkwardness to gospel conversations, but there is with a lot of important things. That doesn’t mean “the Spirit isn’t present,” or that the “timing is off, I should wait.” If you’re waiting for a heavenly trumpet sound every time you should evangelize, you will wait a long time.

- **Having said that, make sure you are led by the Spirit.**

– Pray, pray, pray. Ask for God’s presence, and for God to provide a way.

Part 2 – Conversational Evangelism

- **Use your church events and friend groups! Although this may not explicitly be evangelism in that the gospel is not expounded, it can lead to gospel conversations.**

– Invite people to church! ([82% of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited](#))

– Invite people to Bible studies or small group

– Invite people to family fun events

– Invite people into *community*. They may not initially want Jesus, but most everyone wants a place to belong. Invite people into your friend group and to “do life” together.

- **Prayer is a great entry to evangelism**

– “I’ll pray for that.”

– “How can I pray for you?”

- **Start general and broader, before getting to specifics**

– “Are you spiritual or religious? What do you think of religion?”

– “Do you think angels and demons exist?”

– “Do you think God exists?”

– “What do you think happens when we die?”

– “What do you think heaven is like? How do you think we get there?”

– Notice, you don't have to start with "Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?"

- **Find a person's heartbeat (what they care about), and move from there to Christ**

– Everyone has strong desires. At their core, desire is not bad. We want to be safe, loved, and known. We want community. We want purpose. **Identify the desires of the person you are talking to.**

– As Christians, we want to connect these core desires with Christ, and talk about how Christ fulfills them.

– For the person who feels worthless, we share that Christ died for him/her. For the person who has a strong sense of justice, we talk about how God cares for the outcast, the poor, and the defenseless. **Jesus fulfills our deepest needs.**

- **Direct questions are good, too, provided the context is right**

– "Do you know Jesus, and follow him as your Lord and Savior?"

– "Do you have a home church?"

– "What do you think about Jesus? Can I tell you about him?"

- **Have one (or three!) ways you like to share the Gospel ready**

– G.O.S.P.E.L.

- > G.od created us to be with Him
- > O.ur sins separate us from God
- > S.ins cannot be repaid by good deeds
- > P.aying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again
- > Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life
- > L.ife with Jesus starts now and lasts forever!

– [The Romans Road](#)

> The Human Problem - Sin

Romans 3:23 - *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"*

> The Consequence of Sin

Romans 6:23 - *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

> The Solution - Christ's Sacrifice

Romans 5:8 - *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

> The Response - Faith

Romans 10:9 - *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

> The Assurance of Salvation

Romans 10:13 - *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

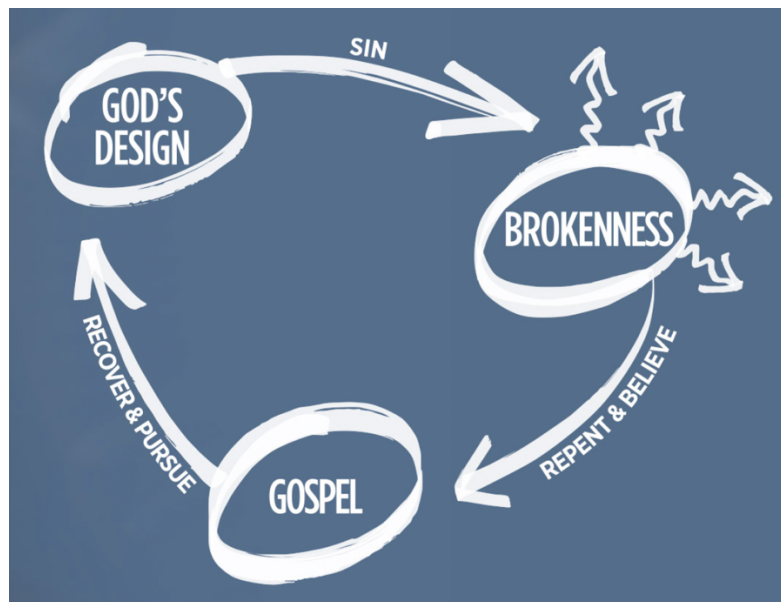
> The Result of Salvation - Peace with God

Romans 5:1 - *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"*

> Living in the Spirit

Romans 8:1 - *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

– The 3 Circles:



• **Try to have a follow up plan and confirm with the other person**

- If possible, get a phone number
- Ask if you can follow up
- If appropriate, set up another meeting time to talk (coffee, walking, restaurant, etc.)
- Invite to church! Or, try to find them a healthy church in their area.

Part 3 – What Happens after the Conversation?

- **Pray, pray, pray. All glory be to God.**
- **If possible, follow up and set up another meeting to talk**
 - Discussed from the last section; see if you can't continue the conversation soon.
- **If nothing happens after the initial conversation, you are not a failure (!)**
 - Our duty is to be faithful to God's calling. ALL results are up to God and His will. You are not a failure if "nothing" (that you know of) came from your gospel conversation.
 - Greg Koukl (an apologist from California) puts it this way: We are trying to put a pebble in someone's shoe. Down the road, something may poke or prick them, and then God moves in such a way to where they have to stop and do something about it.
 - One analogy I like is this: It was your turn to have the evangelistic baton. Now, you pass it over for the next person God is bringing into their life, to continue the work. You don't have to carry the baton the whole way.
- **Go over the evangelistic conversation by yourself or with a friend (game film!)**
 - Evangelism, like anything else, takes practice to get "better" (from a human point of view). You get less nervous, you learn how to phrase things better, etc.
 - A friend can help you walk through how things went, and offer suggestions.
- **Go forth and continue sharing the gospel *with expectation that God is moving!***