

HOW CAN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL?

Sharing the gospel is not easy. It takes courage to speak up when you know that there is a good possibility of provoking a hostile reaction. It takes confidence to share knowledge that might create an awkward and uncomfortable moment. It takes consciousness to be aware of the fact that you are interacting with someone who needs the gospel.

Most of us know that we are to engage in personal evangelism. The problem does not lie in the lack of desire but in the lack of knowledge. We just do not know how to do it. With that in mind, consider three very practical ways to begin a conversation about the gospel.

First, I would suggest that each one sets a goal for themselves. The apostle Paul set goals for himself (Phil. 3.13,14). Even Jesus set the goal of taking the gospel to the world by starting locally, then expanding to preaching the gospel regionally, and then finally to the ends of the earth (Acts 1.8). Start every week with the goal of talking to one person about the gospel. Make a list of everyone you know who is either not a Christian or not a faithful Christian. Then at the beginning of each week, take out your list and choose the next person on the list. It may be someone in your family, or perhaps a friend you hang out with to watch the game. Whoever it is, choose one person.

Second, I would recommend asking questions. Jesus often used questions as the means to engage in conversation with the people around Him (Matt. 16.15; Mark 9.14-16). After you have picked out the individual on your list, have a series of questions that might provoke a conversation. Possible questions to ask might be, “Do you attend any kind of church?” “Were you raised in a specific religion?” Or perhaps more direct questions such as “Would you like to come to services with me?” “Would you be interested in studying the Bible?”

Third, I would suggest looking for opportunities in the conversation to breach the subject of spiritual matters. If you are talking about friend and the subject of science comes up, you can interject a thought about God who is the author of science. Even something as simple as weather, you can insert thoughts about how weather started with the global flood (Gen. 2.5).

It may seem awkward. It may cause fear to well up inside you. But ultimately, reaching out to others is an act of love (1 Cor. 16.14).

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: info@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

October 3, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

WHAT IS THE FAITH THAT WAS DELIVERED?

The word “faith” describes a belief that moves us to obey. Bible faith is an obedient faith (James 2.14ff). Sometimes the word “faith” does not refer to belief, but to a belief system, specifically, the gospel. It is used that way mostly when the word “faith” follows the definite article. We find an example of that in Jude 3. There the inspired writer instructs us to *“contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”*

Notice that this belief system known as *“the faith”* was delivered *“once for all.”* The meaning behind this phrase is in reference to time. The gospel was delivered once for all time. This suggests that there is not going to be any other revelation. Everything that we need to live and be godly is found within the pages of the New Testament (2 Pet. 1.3). We have revealed to us *“the whole counsel of God”* (Acts 20.27). And thus there is no longer a need for the additional revelations to come through prophecy or speaking in tongues (1 Cor. 13.8-10).

The world is filled with people who *“turn the grace of God into lewdness”* (Jude 4). They take the faith and change its message. The result is once faithful Christians have departed from the faith (1 Tim. 4.1). Is it any wonder that we are called to *“earnestly contend for the faith that was once for all delivered”* We must be people who stand up for the truth of the gospel. CLP

THE LORD'S ONE CHURCH MATTHEW 16:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. The word “denomination” means “division.” It is used to describe the individual parts that make up the whole.
2. Is this what Jesus had in mind in reference to the church He planned to build? (John 17.20,21; 1 Cor. 1.10)

I. THE IDENTITY OF JESUS

- A. There are questions that are asked.
 1. **MARK 8.27,28:** “*Who do men say that I am?*”
 2. **MARK 8.29:** “*But who do you say that I am?*”
- B. There is an answer that is given.
 1. **MARK 8.30:** “*You are the Christ.*”
 2. “Christ” is the New Testament word for the Old Testament “Messiah.” (John 1.41; 4.25,26)
 3. Literally, it means “anointed.” There were three groups who were anointed. (Acts 3.22; Heb. 3.1; John 18.37)

II. THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS

- A. **MATTHEW 16.18:** “*On this rock.*”
 1. As the Christ, Jesus has the authority to build His church.
 2. Peter understood what Jesus meant. (Acts 2.22; 3.13)
 3. **1 CORINTHIANS 3.11:** “*For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*”
- B. **MATTHEW 16.18:** “*I will build My church.*”
 1. To whom does the church belong? It is His church.
 2. Jesus is the authority in the church. (Eph. 1.22,23)

III. THE CHURCH OF JESUS

- A. The foundation of the church.
 1. **MATTHEW 16.18:** “*On this rock.*”
 2. It was built on the identity of Jesus. (Eph. 2.20)
- B. The prediction of the church.
 1. **MATTHEW 16.18:** “*I will build*”
 2. The church was still in the future. (Eph. 3.11)
- C. The possession of the church.
 1. **MATTHEW 16.18:** “*I will build My church.*”
 2. The church belongs to Jesus. (Col. 1.13; Heb. 12.23)

CONCLUSION: The church to which you need to belong is His!

HOW CAN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL?

Jesus commands His disciples to “*preach the gospel to every creature*” (Mark 16.16). By doing so, we are bringing salvation to those who are on the road to destruction and making disciples for Jesus (Matt. 28.19). This responsibility is so heavy that even the apostle Paul asked, “*who is sufficient for these things?*” (2 Cor. 2.16). In other words, who has the ability within themselves to carry out such a monumental task?

It is easy to fall into the mindset of measuring church growth by the number of people in attendance or the amount given in the contribution. But the true measure of our success as a congregation is the number of people we reach out to with the gospel. This is the primary function and work of the church (Eph. 3.10). How can we as members of the church touch hearts for Jesus?

We can reach the lost through an explanation of the gospel. Aquilla and Priscilla took Apollos aside, “*explained to him the way of God more accurately*” (Acts 18.26). Paul went into the synagogue “*explaining and demonstrating*” Christ (Acts 17.3). There comes a point when you just have to sit down with someone, open your Bible, and explain to them what the Bible says. Are there people in your family who need the gospel? Do you have friends or neighbors you spend time with? Have you ever asked them if they were willing to study the Bible? Have you invited them to worship services so they can hear the teachings from the Bible?

We can reach the lost through a demonstration of the gospel. Paul wrote to the Romans that “*your faith is spoken of throughout the world*” (Rom. 1.8). Later in the same letter Paul says, that “*your obedience has become known to all*” (Rom. 16.19). Right now, you are known for the kind of life that you live. People know you to be someone who faithfully attends worship. You are known as someone who does not participate in worldly activities or speak use profane language. People are going to react your being different either in a positive way (1 Pet. 3.15) or in a negative way (1 Pet. 4.4). Either way, a door will be opened for a conversation.

Fulfilling the work of the church by taking the gospel out to the lost requires a shift in mindset. It begins with seeing everyone we know as either having been forgiven or in need of forgiveness (2 Cor. 5.16). We must see ourselves as Christians through whom others will come to believe and obey the gospel. If we can maintain that mindset, it will help us focus on the work we are to do. CLP