

I John: Christian Basics: Sharing Matters

Connecting Scripture to everyday Living

1 John 1:1-4

All of this has an effect on human culture and interactions. Scripture tells us this:

In Romans 10:9-10, Paul says:

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

And again in Romans 10:13-15 –

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

So... If you must confess... aloud (bear witness), someone must be willing to tell them. Can we use social media... sure. But we have lost our ability to share our story...

FB, Twitter, Instagram – most of what we do is like or share OTHER’S stories, posts, and statuses. So now what?

❖ You must have Something To Share (1:1,3a)

- You must have an undeniable experience with Jesus Christ.

They were relating and experience... they had heard of, seen, looked upon, touched, and experienced. They were not relating a story told to them or some other’s experience... it was theirs and no one could take that away.

- You need to share out of your personal experience.

The world is full of stories, both good and bad. Today, our society is generally skeptical... they have heard so many ‘stories’ they are not sure

what is real and what is not. People can argue with your theology, doctrine, opinions, but they can never take away from you your personal, genuine experiences.

❖ You must have a Willingness to Share (1:2) (I Peter 3:15)

○ 7 tips for sharing the Gospel from David Jeremiah's Turning Points magazine.

- Ask God to give you an evangelistic burden for others.
- Live a consistent Christian life before these people.
- Build bridges to others.
- Learn the Gospel. Not just debating politics.
- Watch for openings to share a word for Christ.
- Create opportunities if the right opportunity doesn't come naturally.
- Leave the results with God.

❖ You must have the right Motivation to Share (1:3b)

Illustration: The famous evangelist Billy Sunday was looking for people to tell about Jesus. Since he was going to be in a particular city he wrote a letter to the mayor in which he asked for the name of individuals he knew who had a spiritual problem and needed help and prayer. How surprised the evangelist was when the mayor sent him a city telephone book.

- Will it help bring them into fellowship with Jesus Christ?
- Will it help bring them into proper fellowship with us (believers)?

❖ You must consistently seek the Reward for Sharing (4)

- The sharing makes our joy complete.

The joy will not come in the success of the endeavor, but in being faithful to do it. God has not called us to be successful, but to be faithful. Joy comes as we encounter and experience Christ on the journey of faithful discipleship, no matter the success or failure.

Do you know any soul winners who are grumpy?

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Illustration Skit: "Getting the Word out"

A legend recounts the return of Jesus to heaven after His time on earth. He returned bearing the marks of His earthly pilgrimage with its cruel cross and shameful death.

The angel Gabriel approached Him and said, "Master, you must have suffered terribly for the people down there."

"I did," said Jesus

"And," continued Gabriel, "do they now know all about how You loved them and what you did for them?"

"Oh, no," said Jesus. "Not yet. Right now, only a handful of people in Palestine know."

Gabriel was perplexed. "Then what have You done," he asked, "to let all people know about Your love for them?"

"Well, I've asked Peter, James, John, and a few others to tell people about me. Those who are told will in turn tell others, and the Gospel will be spread to the farthest reaches of the globe. Ultimately, all of mankind will hear about Me and what I have done on their behalf."

Gabriel frowned and looked skeptical. He knew that people weren't dependable. "Yes," he said, "but what if Peter and James and John and the others grow weary? What if the people who come after them forget? And what if, way down in the 20th and 21st centuries people get too busy to bother telling others about You? Haven't You made any other plans?"

"NO!, I've made no other plans, Gabriel," Jesus answered. "I'm counting on them!"