



THINGS THAT PREVENT ME FROM SHARING...

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

1. Feeling ashamed
2. Not smart enough
3. Not spiritually gifted at sharing
4. An unclear conscience
5. Fear
6. Being Unprepared
7. Not knowing my bible well enough
8. Not knowing what to say
9. Scared to offend
10. Prayerlessness
11. A wrong attitude

FEELING A SENSE OF SHAME

'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...' (Romans 1:16).

'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God' (1Cor 1:18).

1. Rome was the world power. To speak of power was to speak of the glory of Rome. Therefore, to speak of the power of God in a crucified Saviour was against the thinking of the time.
2. Imagine preaching that 'sinners are powerless' to a roman citizen? That They needed the power of God which is the gospel, to believe it, to be saved.
3. We live in a Roman and Greek society.
4. Do NOT be embarrassed. Do Not be surprised.
5. Some have tried to leave out the cross and emphasize the love of God but that is only a one-sided gospel!

I AM NOT AS SMART AS THEY ARE

“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 14:1)

1. Often Christians are confronted by smart people and so not know how to approach them. But the problem is Not in the mind but in the heart! It's never intellectual. Lk 10:27, Rom 10:9 & distance between heaven and hell.
2. The bible does not say nice things about people that deny God because God has done all that he can to demonstrate himself. We have internal Evidence (Ec 3:11), External (Rom 1:20) & documented (2Tim 3:16-17)
3. This verse is repeated in Psalm 53:1

I AM NOT GIFTED AT SHARING

The Lord Jesus said, "You will be witnesses unto Me..." (Acts 1:8)

1. Some Christians refuse to share the gospel message with the unsaved because they are not spiritually gifted or they are not an evangelist.
2. We should never think that witnessing for Christ is a pastime activity.
3. Whatever I do, wherever I am found and whatever I say are all reflective of who I am – a witness for my Lord!
4. In the language of the Bible, we are the letter of God to a perishing world. 'You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart' (2Cor 3)



The Gospels of Matthew Mark, Luke and John
are read by more than a few.

But the one that is most read and commented on
is the gospel according to you.

You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day
by the things that you do and the words that you say.
Men read what you write, whether faithless or true.

Say, what is the gospel according to you?

Do men read His truth and His love in your life
Or has yours been too full of malice and strife?
Does your life speak of evil, or does it ring true?

Say, what is the gospel according to you?

Anonymous writer

AN UNCLEAR CONSCIENCE

“You therefore who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonour God through breaking the law? For ‘the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you” (Rom 2:22-24).

1. One of the most prominent reasons that sinners use as to why they won't become Christians.
2. Grace is NOT a licence to sin! (Rom 6:1)
3. A weak testimony results in a weak gospel.
4. My words and actions can turn a sinner away from God.

FEAR

Fear presents its self in many shades:

1. The fear of rejection
 2. The fear of failure
 3. The fear of not knowing what to say
 4. The fear of not knowing enough etc...
- Often the fear stems from SELF, but The promise of 2Tim 1:7
 - Not from God – spirit of FEAR
 - What is from God – power, love and sound mind.

NOT BEING READY

“...always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks **you** a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1Pet 3:15).

- Preparation makes a person ready. Gird up the loins of your mind (1Pet 1:3). Memorise some verses. Know what passages to turn to in the bible. Practice what to say.
- Leaning on the Holy Spirit does not make up for a lack of preparation!
- (2Tim 2:15) ‘Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth’.
- They notice that we are different. We don’t use profanity, we shy away from rude jokes and gestures, we don’t speak ill of people, and we don’t participate in anything that brings dishonour to God or can potentially hurt people. We are honest, hard-working and kind to all people, and this normally arouses their interest in us.

NOT KNOWING OUR BIBLE

'For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart' (Hebrews 4:12).

1. Some Christians do not know what passages, chapters or verses to turn too.
2. The Bible isn't a collection of musty stories and myths. It has an inherent life and power.
3. God's Word can hit us with surprising precision, delivering the message in just the right place.
4. God's word can do what a two-edged sword cannot do; it is able to reach the place in me that cannot be seen – soul and spirit. It reveals the true motive and intent of my heart.
5. Therefore, we should memorize some verses that clearly communicate the gospel. Have them read the verses if you have a bible on hand.
6. When we read or quote scripture it avoids misinterpretation and arguments.

NOT KNOWING WHAT TO SAY

Example - When I go to say something I freeze and forget what to say etc...

- Different Christians use different methods:
 1. The 10 Commandments to demonstrate that we are all sinners.
 2. Romans Road – 3:23 (what I am), 6:23 (God's gift) & 10:13 (how to receive)
 3. Bible tracts (literature, video, software)
 4. Home Bible study
- If I know that person i.e. work with, friend, family member or acquaintance:
 1. Be hospitable– that way you can learn about their character and they can witness your testimony by how you treat them.
 2. Make an extra effort to help them when they need help – earn their respect.
 3. Invite them to a gospel meeting

SCARED TO OFFEND THEM

'speaking the truth in love' (Ephesians 4:15)

1. Don't be rude or offensive. Put yourself in their shoes. You want to win them and not confirm them in their unbelief!
2. Listen carefully to their reasoning.
3. Do not over-talk, be polite and gentle.
4. Avoid distractions – these often prevent you from sharing the gospel. Example of Nicodemus.
5. Be conscience of the words you choose to use – the cross, the blood of Jesus, condemnation, atonement etc... need to be explained in words that a sinner can understand.

APART FROM PRAYER WE CAN DO NOTHING

'Salvation is of the Lord' (Jonah 2:9)

"God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." John Wesley
(spent 2 hours daily in prayer)

"The secret of all failure is our failure in secret prayer." The Kneeling Christian

1. It is a miracle. That does not mean I am not responsible and it does not mean that I should rely on a particular method or technique.
2. As the apostle Paul was appointed as a "chosen vessel" to bear Christ's Name before the unsaved, the Lord Jesus does still use His people as divine instruments in proclaiming His salvation (Acts 9:15).
3. Pray before, during and after! Pray without ceasing (1Thes 5:17)

A WRONG ATTITUDE...

**“He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him”
(Psalm 126:6).**

1. It can be discouraging to face continual opposition which can also lead some Christians into despondency.
2. Never give up!
3. Practice makes perfect.
4. Think of the terrible consequence that awaits those that refuse the gospel. It is difficult not to become overwhelmed to the point of tears at the thought of where they'll be if they remain in that condition. Proclaiming the gospel is not about winning arguments or thinking ourselves to be more clever than the unsaved, instead, it is to understand the great cost if we refuse God's salvation