

## Simple Questions, Profound Answers

### Gospel Conversations – Part 2

Colossians 4:2-6; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 3-19-17

**Evangelism is a spiritual discipline that should be a part of our lives as followers of Christ.**

(Acts 1:8; Mark 1:14-20)

*Always and everywhere the servants of Christ are under orders to evangelize, and I hope that what I shall say now will act as an incentive to this task. – JI Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*, p. 13.*

*Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade. – Mack Stiles, *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*, p. 26.*

See Colossians 1:5-7; 2 Corinthians 5:11; Acts 17:2-4

Evangelism isn't throwing out 'truth bombs' but taking a personal interest in people and seeking to explain the truths of the gospel in a clear and helpful way out of love and concern for their souls. This usually takes the form of 'gospel conversations.'

*It is by teaching that the gospel preacher fulfills his ministry. To teach the gospel is his first responsibility: to reduce it to its simplest essentials, to analyze it point by point, to fix its meaning by positive and negative definition, to show how each part of the message links up with the rest- and go on explaining it till he is quite sure that his listeners have grasped it. (Packer, p. 48)*

**We need to be prepared for gospel conversations.** (Colossians 4:2-4; 1 Peter 3:14-16; Ephesians 6:18-20; 2 Timothy 1:7-14)

*A gospel conversation is simply a conversation between two people (one a believer and one an unbeliever) that includes some reference to (and hopefully, dialogue about) various truths that are at the heart of the good news of Christ and His cross.*

If God were to open a door for you to share the gospel, would you be prepared to do so?

Some of our fear in witnessing is due to not knowing what to say and being afraid of both rejection by the unbeliever and misdirection (inadequately speaking the truth so that someone is misled rather than led to Christ).

**We need to be able to explain the gospel briefly.**

We can truly rest in the gospel without being completely clear or eloquent in our explanation of who He is and what He's done. We are saved by a childlike faith. But we are not to stay childlike

in our faith but our faith is to grow and we are to mature in our ability to explain our hope in Christ.

One indicator that we understand something is that we are able to simplify it for someone else.

If you had 3 minutes to share the gospel message, what would you say?

Video: The Way of the Master: 3 Minutes to Live

**One way to focus our explanation of the gospel is to answer four simple questions.**

1. Why is the world the way it is? (Psalm 16:11; Romans 1:25; 3:23)
2. What has God done about it? (1 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:8, 17)
3. What must we do? (Acts 20:21; 1 John 1:9; Romans 10:9)
4. How then are we to live? (2 Corinthians 5:9; Romans 12:1-2)

Have You Heard the Good News? Tract

Two Ways to Live: Rote Presentation (Video)

*To evangelize, is to present Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their Saviour, and serve Him as their King in the fellowship of His Church. (Packer, p. 38)*

**It is important to understand the most clear and methodical presentation of the gospel in the Bible: the book of Romans.**

1. Why is the world the way it is? (Romans 1:1- 3:20)
2. What has God done about it? (Romans 3:21-5:21)
3. What must we do? (Romans 3:21-5:21; 9:1-11:36)
4. How then are we to live? (Romans 6:1-8:39; 12:1-16:27)

*Evangelism is the issuing of a call to turn, as well as to trust; it is the delivering, not merely of a divine invitation to receive a Saviour, but of a divine command to repent of sin. (Packer, p. 40)*

*Evangelism is man's work, but the giving of the faith is God's. (Packer, p. 40)*