

Closing Conversations

Colossians 4:2-6; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; 4-30-17

Gospel conversations of the fullest kind have an introduction, content, and a closing.

Introduction

Have you found a good way to begin gospel conversations?

- Statement with Question: *I'm a Christian. Do you know what I mean? I just need to go back a little bit to explain. May I do that?*
- Statement with Question: *There is a lot of evil in this world. Why do you think people do these kinds of things? Did you know that God has done something about it? May I explain?*
- Statement with Question: *Christianity is not about being good. If it was, why did Jesus die?*
- Question: *Do you have a religious background?*
- Question: *What do you think happens after death?*
- Question: *If you were to die and stand before God, why would he let you into heaven?*

Content

Do you have a favorite gospel outline?

Two Ways to Live

1. *God, the loving ruler and creator.* God made the world and made mankind to rule under him.
2. *Humanity in rebellion.* This world is not the way it should be because all people have rebelled against God.
3. *God won't let people keep on rebelling forever.* God is good and will call all people to account. The punishment for our rebellion is death and judgment.
4. *Jesus, the Man who dies for rebels.* Because of his love, God sent his Son Jesus Christ to offer his life on the cross, taking our punishment and bringing us forgiveness.
5. *Jesus, the risen ruler.* God accepted Jesus' death as full payment for our sins, and raised him from the dead to prove it. Jesus now reigns and will one day return to judge the world.
6. *The two ways to live.* We can continue living our way, rejecting God's rule and running life our way, or we can live in God's new way, submitting to Christ and relying on his death and resurrection.

Closing

What should we think about 'the sinner's prayer'?

Two Ways to Live

‘The first thing to do is to talk to God. You need to admit before him that you have rebelled against him, that you deserve punishment and that you’re asking for mercy on the basis of Jesus’ death in your place. You’ll also need to ask God to help you change from being a rebel to being someone who lives with Jesus as their ruler. You could pray something like this:

Dear God,

I know that I am not worthy to be accepted by you. I don’t deserve your gift of eternal life. I am guilty of rebelling against you and ignoring you. I need forgiveness. Thank you for sending your Son to die for me that I may be forgiven. Thank you that He rose from the dead to give me new life. Please forgive me and change me, that I may live with Jesus as my ruler. Amen.

So what do you do at the end of a gospel conversation?

Possible Ways to ‘Close’

- Question: *Which way do you want to live – your way or God’s way?*
- Statement: *You need to turn to God for mercy and trust in Jesus.*
- Statement with Question: *You need to turn to God for mercy and trust in Jesus. Have you ever asked God for mercy? Would you like to do that right now?*

What does the Bible tell us to do?

- Call on the Lord. (Romans 10:9-13; Acts 2:21; Joel 2:28-32)
- Ask and you will receive. (Matthew 7:7-8)
- ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus’ and spoke the word of the Lord to them. (Acts 16:30-32)
- Repent and be baptized and ‘with many other words ... kept on exhorting them’. (Acts 2:37-41)
- Pharisee and the Tax-Collector (Luke 18:13)

Illustrations in Church History

- George Whitefield
- John Bunyan
- Charles Spurgeon

Possible Responses

- Definite ‘No’
- Definite ‘Yes’
- Yes, but not Yet
- On the Fence
- Already a Christian