

Successful Conversations

Revelation 2:13; Coast Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; June 4, 2017

What makes our gospel conversations 'successful'? Success is often defined in terms of 'production' or 'results.' Success in gospel conversations is best defined much more broadly, in terms of faithfulness. And there are three broad categories that are helpful to consider in thinking about faithful gospel conversations: Testimony, Sovereignty and Free Offer.

1. We testify of Christ in the face of unbelief. – Matthew 10:32-33

- Successful gospel conversations are not those in which we win the argument. A successful gospel conversation is not one in which we are able to out argue the other person and feel good about ourselves.
- Successful gospel conversations happen. In light of the spiritual battle, grace to speak for Christ is a victory in itself. -Acts 1:8; Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:9; Luke 21:13; Acts 18:5; Revelation 12:11
- Successful gospel conversations are clear on the truth of the gospel. We want them to know what the good news is. – 1 Corinthians 14:9; Colossians 4:4
- Successful gospel conversations are those in which seeds are sown. We may be used to prepare people for the witness of others. – Matthew 13:3-9; 1 Corinthians 3:6-8

God is the Supreme Good who created us to look to Him for our help and happiness. - Isaiah 12:2

Man is an idol worshiper who looks to created things instead, disobeys God, and deserves His just punishment. – Psalm 106:38

Jesus is the double cure who lived the life we could never live and died the death we deserve to die, then rose from the dead as the only Lord and Savior. – Isaiah 53:8

Faith is trust in the promises of God for pardon and perfection, help and happiness because of Jesus alone. – Romans 4:19-21

Love is the obedience of faith that trusts and obeys God's Word for the glory of God and the good of others in every situation and relationship. – Luke 6:35-36

2. We trust in God's sovereign work through imperfect vessels. – Acts 13:48

- Successful gospel conversations are not discussions about Calvinism. A successful gospel conversation is not a Calvinistic presentation of the gospel! It is not presenting the 5 points of

Calvinism. In fact, a Biblically faithful presentation of the gospel can be shared by both Calvinists and Arminians.

- Successful gospel conversations are those in which a harvest is reaped. We may be used to bring people into the kingdom. – John 4:35-38; 1 Corinthians 9:22; 1 Timothy 1:2; Philemon 1:10
- 3. We present sinners with a genuine offer of salvation through Jesus.** – Revelation 22:17
- Successful gospel conversations are not just information sharing. A successful gospel conversation is not one in which we throw out ‘truth’ without passion (without caring about their soul and salvation) or purpose (without trying to point them to Christ).
 - Successful gospel conversations are encouraging. We encourage them to simply ask God for mercy, trust in Christ and receive God’s gift. – Ephesians 4:29; John 4:10; Acts 16:31
 - Successful gospel conversations are those in which Jesus and the Cross are exalted or exalt Jesus as an able and willing Savior for you and me (all). Regardless of the response, we can be thankful if we had the opportunity to exalt Jesus. – 1 Corinthians 2:2; Galatians 3:1; John 14:6; John 8:32; Romans 10:17
 - Successful gospel conversations are those in which the free offer is made. We want them to know that salvation is within their reach and that Jesus offers himself to them as an able and willing Savior for them. – Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17