



Part 5: Unafraid Witness

Key Text: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're

leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group. ~ Pastor Matt

KEY THOUGHT

A Key clear direct witness about my relationship with Christ brings the glory down.

OPEN

- Is it hard for you to bring up Christ at your family gatherings during the holidays?
- What words cause you to experience instant fear?
- What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention? What would you like to discuss in regards to the message? **Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17.**

DISCUSSION

- Based on recent statistics, crucial questions have been asked: Why is evangelism failing today in the North American church? Why are we seeing fewer and fewer conversions? Why are not people being baptized? Why is church attendance declining at an alarming rate?
- What emotions do you experience when you hear the word evangelism? If you had one word to summarize your recent experiences with evangelism, what would it be?
- About which subjects are you able to speak boldly? What's the source of your confidence about the subjects?
- Some suggest boldness is a matter of personality or preference, not binding on all Christians for all time. How would you respond to this statement? **(Read Ephesians 6:18-20)**
- **Acts 4** shares the first recorded prayer was a prayer of boldness. How often should we pray for boldness?
- Can you think of recent conversations or interactions when you should have spoken more boldly for Christ and the gospel? If so, what held you back?
- When have you felt like a "fragrance of death and doom" because of the gospel? How about a "fragrance" of life to someone?

NEXT STEPS

Take a moment and pray, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the harvest, red apples in your sphere of influence. Who are they? Where are they?

Are We Peddlers of the Word?

Paul gives us five tests in 2 Corinthians 2:17

1. *Do you treasure Christ enough so that you do not peddle his word?* Paul says, "For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word." That is, these peddlers don't love Christ. They love money and use Christ. So the first test is: *Do you love Christ more than money?* Strictly, the next four phrases in verse 17 all modify the word speak. Literally: we speak from sincerity, from God, before God, in Christ. So I ask you:
2. *Will you speak from sincerity?* Will you be real? Will you mean what you say? Will you renounce all pretense and hypocrisy?
3. *Will you speak as from God?* That is, will you take not only your commission from God, but your words and your authority from God. Will you speak his words and not your own. Will you speak in his authority and not your own? Will you draw your strength and guidance from his power and wisdom, not your own?
4. *Will you speak as before God?* That is, will you reckon him to be your judge and not man? Will you care more about his assessment of your words and not be deterred by human criticism?
5. *Will you speak as in Christ?* That is, will you get your identity and your assurance and your confidence and your hope and your courage from your union with Christ?

FURTHER STUDY

Reasons that people do not share

1. Not facing their true condition

¹⁹*Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives. Galatians 4:19*

2. Not ready to face rejection

¹¹*"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Matthew 5:11*

3. Not ready to answer questions

¹⁵*Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 1 Peter 3:15*

4. Not living it personally

⁶*And I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. Philemon 6*

5. Not sure of the message

¹⁹When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. Matthew 10:19