

Teach the Bible in Everyday Conversation, While Overcoming Objections

(Lesson VI: Conversational Evangelism – Fourth Type of Conversation)

➤ Intro:

- continue series on Conversational Evangelism

➤ - 1st series: Personal Work and Personal Evangelism

- #1 **Be a Good Neighbor:** paradigm of personal work and evangelism, love, good neighbor
- #2 **Don't Worry, Just Do It:** God equips Christians to work, trust Him and yourself, just go it
- #3 **What Works Today:** in busy urbanized society, make friends and bring them to church

➤2 - **chart:** What's responsible for bring people to Christ and church

- #4 **Good Personal Workers are Good Stewards:** management of personal resources (time, \$, energy, possessions, health)

➤ - 2nd series: Good Neighbor Evangelism

- #1 **A List of Prospects:** make a list of people you may be able to reach, help stay in priorities
 - **this series: cultivating, stimulating, and recognizing those who may be interested**
- #2 **Build Bridges:** build relations to have opportunities to communicate Christ and gospel
- #3 **Let the Traffic Flow, Share the Gospel:** communicate the message of Christ
 - **this series: how to communicate and teach in everyday conversation**
- #4 **A Lesson You Can Share:** the lesson I use to teach Christ

➤ Review this series (#3): Conversational Evangelism

- What is Conversational Evangelism

- sharing God's word with people in everyday conversation, rather than in a formal class
 - normally, conversations lead to home study or attending church, leads to obedience to Christ
 - rarely, lead to obedience without home study and visiting at church

- **illus.:** Pam and friend met 2 boys at bowling alley, came to church the next day, continued to come and visit at house, in a few weeks studied, one obeyed gospel that day and other a few weeks later

- **illus.:** Gary Palmer at health food store, recommended church (Temple Terrace) and person to talk to, lady visited, converted

➤ - First two lessons:

- #1 **Cultivate, Stimulate, and Recognize Opportunities**
- #2 **Review and Exemplify: Cultivate, Stimulate, and Recognize Opportunities – men helped**

➤ - Next four lessons: – four types of conversations we need to have with people

- #1 **Learn About Them and Their Religion (Church)**
- #2 **Identify Common Ground, Based on God's Word and Authority**
- #3 **Help Them Understand What They (and their church, religion) Believe – many people are going to a church, and don't know its beliefs**
- #4 **Introduce Bible Teaching in Everyday Conversation, While Overcoming Objections – teaching God's word in everyday conversation**

➤ **Why is this study important?**

- **Col. 4:5-6** how to **walk wisely toward outsiders**, making best use of time, speech seasoned with salt, know how to respond to each person – **our culture, day and age**

- **Matt. 5:14-16** how to be **brightest possible light to world**

➤ **You can use questions to introduce topics of conversation.**

- **Matt. 16:13-15** Jesus ask disciples 2 questions, use answer to teach about church – **Jesus already knew answer**
- **illus.: raising children**, sometimes parent asks questions to teach, even when already know answer

- **study with Mormons:**

- **What do you think about Mitt Romney?** (running for President, Mormon) – **ice breaker to start talking about Mormon religion**

- **talking to person on phone:**

- **What do you think about divorce?** – **seeking common ground, teach on divorce, establish “religious” credibility**

- **tip: ask, “What do you think about. . . .” often**

- **learn** what they think and why – make notes, mental or otherwise

- **talk about** the subject, helping them to think through things they hadn’t thought about or discovered

- **share your thoughts** with gracious speech

➤ **You can respond to other people’s comments.**

- **Jn. 3:1-3** Jesus responded to Nicodemus’ comment, taught lesson

- **principle: if someone communicates a religious belief or opinion**, and you say nothing, your silence is often taken as agreement – **have to say something, if a strong mature Christian**

- **illus.: someone says, “I don’t believe you have to be baptized to be saved.”**

- silence is taken as consent

- even if running to an appointment, can say, “I disagree – we can talk about it later if you want”

- **illus.: new acquaintance tell you where they go to church**

- don’t know that church well enough or person well enough to voice objection

- not remain silent, rather also tell them where you go to church and why

➤ **Tell people about yourself – share your faith.**

- **Paul's example of teaching by telling people about himself:** – ashamed? do we follow his example?

- **1 Cor. 15:9-10** Paul's attitude toward self – teaches humility, power of God

- **Acts 22:1-21** Paul tells his story to Jews – how often do you tell your story?

- **Acts 22:4, 20** persecuted Christians – tell others about sins before saved?

- **Acts 22:16** baptize, wash away sins – tell others what did to be saved, why did it?

- **Dawn's band director:** after parent meeting, went up and talked about, casually brought up that Dawn wouldn't be at activities on Sunday or Wednesday that conflicted with church

- had a picnic Sunday, Dawn not have problem telling friends she would be at church

- **first meeting with adult unbeliever to teach:** tell me story from sin to salvation

- make credible, example of God's grace and power to save – people can relate – common ground

➤ **Don't compromise your faith, communicate, and you'll also teach.**

- **Daniel and friends:**

- **Dan. 1:8-13** not defile with diet, communicated, asked, went to boss with solution – Steven Covey, win/win

- **Dan. 3:16-18** refused to worship idol, communicated faith in God

- **talking with Dawn's band director:** told us about 50/50 raffle, communicated our faith, we told him had conscientious objection to gambling

- nothing to fear: he respected us – even if he didn't. . . .

- **person working job agreed to let have off to go to church:** start scheduling during church, talk, may have to quit (Beth) – good employer respect more, want to work with you

➤ **Overcoming objections:**

- **view as great opportunity – not dread – illus.: salesman, have to know and address to make sale**
 - **have the best chance of leading them to Christ with the gospel** when people are willing to engage in graceful conversation regarding their objections, you
 - **tips:**
 - **welcome** people's objections: be excited about the opportunity, don't fear – **take as compliment**
 - know and understand **why** someone objects, before answering
 - be sure deal with a **root cause** behind the belief – fundamental religious principles might have to be addressed before dealing with this objection

- **effective in teaching**
 - **Acts 19:8-9** Paul, Ephesus, reasoning and persuading, answering objections
 - **1 Cor. 16:8-9** Paul at Ephesus – **objections open doors, opportunity**
 - **Jude 1:3** contend earnestly for the faith
 - **Tit.1:9** elders, refute those who contradict
 - **illus.: Brittany with Jeremy**, her fiancé
 - **illus.: Allen Michaels** in Bible study

- **attitude and behavior extremely important:**
 - **Eph. 4:15** speak truth in love
 - **right answer with bad behavior = bad answer** - turn off (**Col. 4:5-6**)
 - **the truth without love** is not effective in converting souls to Christ with the gospel – actually damaging

 - **illus.: 1 Pet. 2:21-23** Jesus' attitude when threatened and reviled
 - **How would you have reacted?**

 - **illus.: Acts 24:10f** Paul behavior after being vehemently accused by Jews
 - **How would you have reacted?**

 - **illus.: adult of congregation told me a story about one of our young people**, religious discussion on the phone, parent got in on it and was not very nice, young person kept her head and exhibited good behavior
 - **Who was most effective?**
 - **adults: When was the last time you were in a serious religious discussion with an unbeliever? Would you have done as well?**

Summary / Inv. – review PP slide

- **we are blessed with opportunities in day-to-day life**, some which we don't even recognize, but as long as we talk about God and His church, doors will open
 - **ask questions**
 - **respond to comments**
 - **tell people about yourself** – your story
 - **don't compromise, communicate**, and you'll also teach
 - **overcome objections**, welcome the opportunity, speaking the truth in love

- - **inv.:** if you want to help people get to heaven, first have to be a faithful Christian yourself