

4 Attitudes Needed for Sharing the Gospel

Excerpt from The 2:7 Series Bible study: *Deepening Your Roots in God's Family*

Relationship Evangelism

Would you agree that most Christians are apprehensive about sharing their faith with others? While most Christians feel a responsibility to share Christ with the lost, many do not do so because of fear, lack of know-how, or uneasiness in using canned, unnatural approaches to sharing. Can you identify with any of the following excuses?

"Not my gift."

"Too nervous."

"I just don't know enough."

"It's not my personality."

Many Christians have overcome these excuses and discovered the joy and fruit that result from sharing their faith in Christ in the context of normal relationships with people. When there is mutual trust and respect in a relationship, the believer can easily and very effectively share his or her faith.

It's a Matter of Attitude

What attitudes are necessary to effectively affirm the gospel to others?

1. We must be willing to initiate relationships.

Creating common ground will cost us time and privacy, but how will others see God's grace in us if we keep our distance? We must go into the world to establish rapport needed to draw people into our lives.

2. We must show the same kind of love and acceptance toward sinners that Jesus displayed.

Jesus was the friend of tax collectors and sinners. We must accept people as they are. Be realistic about unbelievers and don't expect too much. It is our responsibility to adapt to them unless absolute moral issues are involved. Make them feel comfortable around you.

3. We must be willing to boldly identify with Christ early in a relationship.

We need to identify ourselves as Christians in the early stages [of the relationship] because the longer we wait without saying anything, the harder witnessing will be at a later time. It is not wise to conceal

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our identity as Christians. We must be open about our relationship with Christ, yet we need to guard against an overly aggressive spirit that would be threatening or offensive.

4. We must demonstrate dependence on God through persevering prayer.

Not only does God want us to initiate and develop relationships, He wants us to pray faithfully for those with whom we are sharing the faith.

Proper attitudes are essential as we seek to affirm the gospel.

In 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (MSG) Paul writes, *Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized – whoever. I didn't take on their ways of life. I kept my bearings in Christ – but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!*

Discussion Starters

1. What do you learn about God's character from this article on sharing your faith with others?
2. How do you live opposite or differently to the ideas presented here? Why?
3. How can you apply these attitudes to your life... today... this week?

Resources

[Deepening Your Roots in God's Family](#): A Course in Personal Discipleship to Strengthen Your Walk With God from NavPress Bible Studies

[Growing Strong in God's Family](#): A Course in Personal Discipleship to Strengthen Your Walk With God from NavPress Bible Studies

[Bearing Fruit in God's Family](#): A Course in Personal Discipleship to Strengthen Your Walk With God from NavPress Bible Studies

[Surprise the World](#): *The Five Habits of Highly Missional People* by Michael Frost

Also available for download, [The Grape Illustration](#) helps you build your testimony based on the experiences in your life.

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