

HOW DO YOU TALK TO YOUR OWN RELATIVES ABOUT SPIRITUAL THINGS?

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R. Larry Moyer
Evangelist & Founder of EvanTell

There is undoubtedly no greater burden on earth than to realize that individuals who are part of your family on earth may not become a part of your family in heaven. But how do you go about speaking to relatives about spiritual things, and specifically the gospel of Jesus Christ?

THE DON'TS

I. Don't be _____ by the _____.

A. No one knows you like your relatives.

1. They have seen and know your past: your selfishness, fits of anger, unkind attitude, addictions to drugs, and a host of other sins.
2. Bear in mind that God forgives and you must forgive yourself. Personalize **Psalm 103:12** by saying, "*As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed my transgressions from me.*"

B. Satan is a _____. He loves to say, "What right do you have to talk to anyone? Remember when you used to. . ."

1. A forgiven person has both a right and responsibility to speak to anyone and everyone. When relatives have seen a change in your life, they are not likely to bring up the past. If they do, that becomes a bridge to the gospel. Lovingly say, "*Please forgive me. It is because of who I used to be that I am delighted I've come to Christ. I wish somebody would have explained something to me sooner that I would like the opportunity to explain to you.*"

II. Don't take _____ on your shoulders.

A. Christ recognized the fact that His message was a divisive issue.

Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's foes will be those of his own household.
Matthew 10:34-36

B. He also recognized that in order for your relatives to come to Christ, He had to bring them.

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him;
John 6:44a

- C. Concern leads to _____. Anxiety (because they have not come to Christ) or guilt (because you have not yet brought them to Christ) leads to one or all of three things: _____, _____, or _____.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **Philippians 4:6**

III. Don't receive _____ and refuse to extend _____.

if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. **Colossians 3:13b**

- A. God needs your _____, not your _____.

THE DO'S

I. _____ for them and get several other people to commit to do the same.

A. Ask God for:

1. _____.

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." **Luke 10:2**

- a) Ask God to send someone in _____ to you to speak to them.

2. _____.

meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word. **Colossians 4:3a**

- a) In order to evangelize them, God has to provide an open ear and an open heart.

3. _____.

Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word. **Acts 4:29**

- a) The one who shares the gospel needs the courage that overtakes fear instead of fear overtaking courage.

4. _____.

I exhort. . . prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men . . . who desires all men to be saved. . . **1 Timothy 2:1, 4**

- a) Pray and have others pray for your non-Christian family members — by name.

B. _____ your faith.

- a) It is important to pray. It is essential to pray in faith.
- b) Think of other "harder cases" humanly speaking that God has brought to Himself.

II. _____ to speak to them.

A. Be clear on the Biblical _____.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. **1 Corinthians 15:3-5**

1. Simply put, the gospel is, "Christ _____ for our sins and _____ from the dead."

B. Be clear on the meaning of _____.

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. **John 6:47**

1. The meaning of saving faith is _____ in Christ alone to save you.

C. Be clear on the biblical _____.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" **John 11:25-26**

1. The question you therefore have for your relatives is, "Have you come to a point in your life that you know beyond any doubt if you were to die you would go straight to heaven?"

D. Have a way to communicate the gospel that is both _____ and _____.

Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. **Acts 14:1**

Suggestion: The Bad News-Good News approach. It has freed up thousands to talk about the Savior with clarity and confidence. (For additional training in sharing the gospel, visit evantell.org and take our free ACT Evangelism Training course. Its free!)

III. Consider a _____.

A. A verbal witness is not your only way to evangelize to them.

B. The four C's of an effective letter:

1. _____ anything you feel needs to be confessed.
2. _____ them for what they have meant to you.

3. Express your _____ for them.
4. Talk about the _____.

IV. Recognize the balance needed between _____ and _____.

- A. As God provides the opportunity they must be asked, "Is there anything keeping you from trusting Christ right now?"
- B. There may be times, however, when you need to "back-off" for a _____ period of time.
- C. BUT:
 1. Don't back-off in your prayers. Intensify your prayers asking God to send an _____ witness.
 2. Be certain they can tell you _____ to come to Christ even if they are not interested at the moment. That way, even if it be on their deathbed with one moment to live, they can place their trust in Christ as Savior.

V. Recognize that your _____ reinforce your _____.

- A. The witness of the lips, accompanied by the witness of the life, is powerful.

You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe. **1 Thessalonians 2:10**

Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives. **1 Peter 3:1**

- B. The BIG life item that communicates to non-Christians is _____.
- C. When you do fail, recognize that _____ is the best _____.

GOD HAS NEVER MET A PERSON HIS
HEART DID NOT LOVE OR HIS ARMS
COULD NOT REACH. ASK GOD TO HELP
YOU DO YOUR PART AS HE DOES HIS