

First Baptist Church – Odessa

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: _____

“An Honest Gospel Conversation”

“Countdown America: 58 Days of Prayer & Fasting” – Pt. 2

Acts 17:16-34 and Selected

To live at the busy intersection of Christianity and culture means that I will seek honest conversations about the Gospel!

The Seven “C’s” of an Honest Gospel Conversation:

1. Compassion – I must allow God to move my heart before I open my mouth.

“Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him....” Vs. 16a

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:9

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15

2. Conviction – I must be burdened by the lostness of a culture living apart from the glory of God.

“Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.”

Vs. 16

“I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.” Isaiah 42:8

3. Clarity – I must clearly understand the culture to better engage in a Gospel conversation.

“So he (Paul) reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, ‘What does this babbler wish to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities.’” Vs. 17-18a

4. Content – I must know the main points of the Gospel for the purpose of effective cultural engagement.

“...he (Paul) was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.” Vs. 18b

5. Communication – I must share the Gospel openly and honestly by being a verbal witness.

See Vs. 22-29

6. Courage – I must be unafraid to share the demands of the Gospel.

“The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead.” Vs. 30-31

7. Confidence – I must believe in the power of the Gospel regardless of the visible results.

See Vs. 32-34

The Response to an Honest Gospel Conversation:

Mockery

Delay

Belief