

Testimony night

Question for the congregation: How many of us have been through a season or a moment in life that led us to question God's goodness?

1 Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

The first part of this verse is a command: ***But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts...***

Christian apologists use this scripture to emphasize the importance of being able to defend ones faith on an intellectual level, though the commandment itself is spiritual.

Is the word of the Lord over our lives sitting on the throne of our hearts?

A Christian's first line of defense (of the faith) is: the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your life.

Is Jesus Lord?

Our desire to honor the Lord, to serve Him, and be obedient to His Lordship has to be our primary heart cry, and our highest priority.

Your conduct and even the conversations you take part in will bear witness to the God that you serve.

Can our co-workers, friends, and family honestly say our conduct is reflective of the nature of Jesus?

Questions you can ask yourself (and bring to the Lord) to honestly determine your spiritual condition

Am I obedient to the conviction Holy Spirit puts on my heart?

In falling short, am I quick to repent?

Does my life exhibit the fruits of the Spirit? Reference: **Galatians 5: 22-23** - ***love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.***

Do I have a foul mouth?

Where do I allow my eyes to go?

How am I utilizing my breaks at work? Reading the word?

Christian & Jami's pastoral call, Abas (the difference between Moses & Jesus).

and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

Revelation 12:11 - And they overcame him (the accuser of the brethren) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives unto death.

Our testimony is powerful because it's personal

Our testimonies put Immanuel, God with us, on display. If God revealed Himself to you, why wouldn't He will to reveal Himself to others? They Impart hope.

Because they're personal, the bridge the gap between the Christian and the non-believer.

They tell the story of the struggle of a life lived apart from God, and the redemptive work of an intentional God who will reveal Himself to us. Everyone is dealing with something they could use a little help getting through, Christian and non-believer alike.

They create a space for vulnerability

To be vulnerable with someone is to go low. To be vulnerable with someone requires trust, and extends an invitation for them to feel comfortable being vulnerable with us. This also destroys a holier than thou complex.

*****Tell Armando's story*****

While being able to prove the Bible (and more specifically the New Testament) is a reliable historical document is a powerful argument, your testimony is powerful because it's your own personal experience, which is irrefutable.

The most powerful part of anyone's testimony, regardless of what it looks like, is the blood of Jesus and the finished work of the cross.

Revelation 19:10 - ... The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Construct your testimony

Chronological testimony: Tell us what you were like before Christ, how you were converted, and how life has been and has changed in Christ.

Chronological testimony's are ideal for those who came to Christ later in life.

Thematic testimony: This focuses on how Christ has made a difference in dealing with a problem or a challenge in your life. The emphasis should be on how Christ can meet our needs and give us purpose for living.

Thematic testimony's are ideal for those who have served Christ their entire lives.

Tips for constructing your testimony

- ***Write it down.*** Keep it between 250-300 words (about one page). The goal is to be able to share it in 3-minutes or less.
- Keep in mind the content of ***the gospel***, especially Christ's *finished work on the cross*.
- Write in the first person, using "I" and "me".
- Don't focus on how bad you used to be. The objective is to ***magnify the King*** and the kingdom of God.
- Write in such a way that others will be able to identify with you.
- Try to use scripture quoting to illuminate something that happened to you. Quote it from memory.
- Write in a way that others will be able to identify with you.
- Don't present your life as a bed of roses. Be honest. If they know Christians, they know we're not perfect.
- Offer enough details to arouse interest.
- ***SHARE THE GOSPEL!*** The whole goal is to point people to Jesus Christ with your story. We must always share the gospel when presenting our testimony giving God the glory for the work He's done in our lives.