

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: I Love Jesus But... | Part 1: Find it Hard to Share My Faith

**I love Jesus, but find it hard to share my faith.**

**Lifeway Research:** (as reported by CBN news in May 2022)

- Less than half have shared biblical content with loved ones.
- Just 46% have shared a verse or story, and 43% have invited a non-Christian loved one to church services or a church program.
- Just under 4 in 10 have shared the Salvation Message.
- When it comes to self-described Christians sharing how to become a believer, just 38% report doing so for a friend or family member over the past six months.
- When it came to straight up evangelization, Lifeway found that 39% of Christians are willing to evangelize, and 15% are eager.
- Three in 10 (29%) are neutral, 18% are reluctant, and 11% are indifferent, with a total of 58% of self-described Christians either remaining neutral or having a negative feeling about evangelizing.
- 66% of self-described Christians report they “aren’t familiar with any methods of telling others about Jesus.”

**Barna Research:**

- In 1993, 89% of Christians who had shared their faith agreed this is a responsibility of every Christian. Today, just 64% say so – a 25-point drop.

**Lifeway Research:**

- Close to half of unchurched Americans (47%) say they would discuss freely if someone wanted to talk about their religious beliefs. Another 31% would listen without actively participating. Few say they would discuss with some discomfort (12%) or change the subject as soon as possible (11%).
- They also say they would be more willing to listen to Christians talk about their faith if they saw Christians living out their faith in public.
- While 47% are open to general religious conversations, 79% of the unchurched say they don’t mind their Christian friend talking about their faith. Few (23%) think their Christian friends talk about their faith too much, including only 5% who strongly feel that way.
- Only 3 in 10 unchurched Americans (29%) say a Christian has ever shared with them one-on-one how a person becomes a Christian. Only slightly more say a Christian has told them about the benefits of participating in a local church (33%) or the benefits of becoming a Christian (35%).
- Four in 10 unchurched Americans (40%), say they’ve never had a Christian explain any of those things to them.

**The Jesus Film Project + Christian Evangelism Statistics:**

- 22% said fear keeps them from sharing their faith

- 17% didn't have opportunities to share their faith
- 17% said nothing stops them from sharing their faith
- 10% didn't feel equipped to share their faith
- 9% said others weren't interested in their faith
- 8% feared rejection for sharing their faith
- 8% feared hostility for sharing their faith
- 8% were too busy to share their faith
- 4% were too shy to share their faith
- 4% couldn't find an appropriate time to share their faith
- 4% didn't find it easy to bring up faith
- 3% didn't want to come across as pushy for sharing their faith
- 3% didn't want to offend others by sharing their faith

**We could summarize lack of faith sharing as follows:**

- **Practical Reasons**
- **Cultural Reasons**
- **Spiritual Reasons**

**John 14:6 (NLT)**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

**Romans 10:13-15 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

<sup>14</sup> But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? <sup>15</sup> And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

**Matthew 10:5-42 (NLT)**

**Mark 16:15 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

**1 Peter 3:13-17 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. <sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. <sup>17</sup> Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

## **Romans 1:16-17 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

## **2 Corinthians 5:11-21 (NLT)**

<sup>11</sup> Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too. <sup>12</sup> Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart. <sup>13</sup> If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. <sup>14</sup> Either way, Christ’s love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. <sup>15</sup> He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup> So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! <sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

<sup>18</sup> And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. <sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” <sup>21</sup> For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

**It’s imperative that we see ourselves as missionaries in the land we live.**

### ***What then do we do?***

- 1. Pray for opportunities to share your faith.**
- 2. Act on the opportunities that God presents to us.**
- 3. Take a risk. Assume God has both sent and gone before you.**

<https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/cwn/2022/may/5-deeply-concerning-revelations-about-the-state-of-christian-evangelism-in-america>

<https://www.barna.com/research/sharing-faith-increasingly-optional-christians/>

[https://research.lifeway.com/2021/09/09/christians-dont-share-faith-with-unchurched-friends/#:~:text=Around%20a%20third%20\(32%25\),12%25%20belong%20to%20another%20religion.&text=Among%20those%20who%20identify%20as,their%20Christian%20faith%20\(6%25\)](https://research.lifeway.com/2021/09/09/christians-dont-share-faith-with-unchurched-friends/#:~:text=Around%20a%20third%20(32%25),12%25%20belong%20to%20another%20religion.&text=Among%20those%20who%20identify%20as,their%20Christian%20faith%20(6%25))

<https://www.jesusfilm.org/blog/christian-evangelism-statistics/>; <https://www.barna.com/research/sharing-faith-increasingly-optional-christians/>