

Unit 3: Sharing the Gospel

Lesson 6

Sharing with Cultural Christians

Bridge: Equipped 19

Announcements

No class the next two weeks!

- Class resumes on Tues, January 7th!
- Merry Christmas, and Happy New Years!

Are finger knuckles
actually finger elbows, or
are arm elbows actually
arm knuckles?

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Sharing the Gospel with Cultural Christians

Tonight's Verses

“9 Yet you brought me safely from my mother’s womb and led me to trust you at my mother’s breast. **10** I was thrust into your arms at my birth. You have been my God from the moment I was born.”

- Psalm 22:9&10 (NLT)

“I have always been a Christian”

- When people say, “I have always been a Christian,” how do you respond?
- While Psalm 22:9&10 could be misinterpreted to mean that someone can be redeemed from birth, no one is born a Christian.
- When some claim to have always been a Christian, they may mean, they came to Christ as a child.
- Others, though, may think they’re Christians because of their parents or situation. They don’t understand the Gospel and the fact that no one is born a Christian.

What can you do?

What might you do to help and discover what they mean by, “I have always been a Christian”?

- Compliment them
- Flat out ask them what they mean
- Ask if anyone has ever shown them what the Bible says about salvation
- Ask them why they should get into heaven
- Give a clear presentation of the Gospel
- Encourage them

Compliments

- Compliment them for their God-honoring spirit and interest in spiritual things.
Like we discussed last week, a compliment helps tear down walls

Be Direct

- Ask them what they mean by their claim.
- Ask for clarification.
 - If they claim to have been a Christian all their life, someone with an actual testimony will have no problem restating that they were saved in a certain point in their life.
 - Cultural Christians will quickly digress into a worldly answer that doesn't revolve around how they see God's direct intervention in their lives.

Ask About Clear Salvation

- If you sense they don't understand the Gospel, ask them, "Has anyone ever taken a Bible and shown you how you can know for sure you're going to Heaven"?
- Many who say they've always been a Christian will also admit they don't have assurance they're going to heaven.
- Do you, as a Christian, go through periods of feeling like you're far from God? How would someone who isn't actually a Christian feel the closeness of God?

Why Should You Get In?

- If you sense they may well understand the Gospel, but simply are explaining that they've been a Christian from childhood, say this to them:

“Let me ask you the most important question anyone could ever ask. If you stood before God right now and he were to ask you, ‘Why should I let you into heaven’ what would you say?”
- Every Christian knows they shouldn't be let in, but are covered by the robe of Christ's righteousness, and as such are co-heirs with Christ. Jesus paid the debt.

Give a Clear Presentation of the Gospel

- Give a clear presentation of the Gospel, explaining three things:
 - We are sinners
 - Christ died for us and rose again
 - We come to God by trusting Christ alone to save us
- This is where you put into practice all that you've learned!

Encourage Them

- If they understand for the first time what you've explained, encourage them to pray and accept Christ!
- Always make clear that saying a prayer doesn't save a person. It's trusting Christ that saves
- Immediately help them have assurance of salvation by sharing verses such as John 5:24
 - 24 "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life." (NLT)

Cultural Christianity

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