

EVANGELISM
SMCC Core Class

Pastor Brian Kult

March 15, 2026

I. Review Christ: Death pays sins penalty

God: Creator Holy Just Wrath

Man: Sin, all have sinned

Christ: God/man Holy life Death, penalty, sub, atone Resurrection Ascension

Response: Faith, trust, allegiance, loyalty

II. Calling for a Response

Mere intellectual ascent/agreement to facts does not make a person a Christian, anymore than mere intellectual ascent to facts makes one married.

People must Respond to the gospel in faith, trust, allegiance to Jesus.

People are saved by Christ and faith in Him, not by words to a prayer. Prayer can be an expression of faith, but you are not saved by simply saying the words to a prayer. It's not an 'incantation'.

A. Do's in Calling for a Response

1. The Bible says that salvation involves a response.
2. Understand the necessity of calling for a response- in Scripture you never see a presentation of the gospel separated from the call to response.
3. Emphasize that saving faith involves more than knowledge of facts.
4. Also, that the issue in salvation is not "Will God accept me?" but "Will I accept His gracious offer?"

B. Don'ts in Calling for a Response

1. Don't call for a response until you are sure that the person understands the gospel. First we need to have light and then heat. They must understand the content of the gospel before we call for a response...what are they responding to if they do not understand?
2. Don't use manipulation--use persuasion! (2 Cor. 5:20 – “we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God”)
3. Don't allow a person to believe that he is saved through merely saying the words of a prayer. It is through faith in the person of Jesus that a person is saved.

III. SHARING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

What is a Salvation Testimony?

Simply, telling the story of how you became a Christian and what Christ has done in your life since then.

A. VALUES OF YOUR TESTIMONY

1. Gives glory to Christ
2. Very personable, it's your personal story of salvation
3. It's easy to share
4. Creates connection with the other person: sincere not manipulative, no selling something; sincere, compassionate connection

B. BIBLICAL BASIS - PAUL'S TESTIMONY in Acts (especially ch 22)

1. Paul's life before becoming a Christian. (Acts 22:3-5; 26:4-11)
2. Paul becomes a Christian. (Acts 22:7-16; 26:12- 18)
3. Paul's life after becoming a Christian. (Acts 9: 19-22; 22:21; 26:19-20)

C. Especially for those who professed faith in Jesus at an early age:

1. You do have a testimony. You were "dead in your sins". Miracle of new birth
2. Suggested areas on which to focus:
 - a. Your home life, people who influenced you, and your early Christian experience.
 - b. Your early understanding of what following Christ meant.
 - c. How you came to relate personally to Jesus as Lord and Savior.
 - d. Specific areas where Christ has made a difference and areas where He is still working (include what knowing Christ has kept you from--i.e. you were able to withstand peer pressure).
3. What if you do not remember the "exact" time of your conversion?

D. "Do's" IN GIVING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

1. Perhaps begin your testimony with an attention getting sentence:
 - a. I used to think I really knew what was going on in life. Was I wrong!
 - b. I used to be afraid of dying but not anymore.
 - c. I grew up in a church but did not understand its purpose until a few years ago.
 - d. I wasn't always this interested in Christian things . . .

2. End your testimony with a response question:
 - a. And that is how I became a Christian. Does what I said make sense?
 - b. Do you feel like you have come to know Christ yet, or are you still on the way?
3. Adjust your testimony so others can identify with you. Identify with weaknesses and needs as honestly as you can.
4. Use Scripture. (Hebrews 4:12; 2 Tim. 3: 16-17)
5. Proclaim & present Jesus, not yourself.
6. Stress the personal relationship you have with Jesus.

E. "Don'ts" IN GIVING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

1. Avoid using "church" and "Christian talk."
2. Do not be too wordy (4-5 minutes is adequate).
3. Do not overemphasize how bad you used to be. In other words, don't stretch the story. Do not glorify sin. Do not go into detailed specifics.
4. Do not mention denominations, groups, or people in a derogatory manner.
5. Avoid giving the impression that the Christian life is easy or that you are now perfect or better than others.
6. Do not preach--proclaim Jesus.

IV. Bridges to the Gospel: **Choose what you think may be most appropriate.

A. CHURCH Bridge – ask them about their church experience, in non-threatening manner

"Were you brought up in a particular religious tradition?"

"Do they talk about heaven much in your church?"

"What does your church teach about the way a person becomes a Christian?"

B. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE Bridge

"Through the years have you come to know Christ in a personal way, or are you still on the way?"

"What is your current level of interest in spiritual things?"

"Where are you in your own personal search for meaning and purpose in life?"

C. INTELLECTUAL Bridge

"Is there a specific question or concern that is hanging you up in your spiritual journey?"

"Has anyone ever shared with you what the Bible teaches about?"

"Has anyone ever shared with you how to have a personal relationship with God?"

D. PERSONAL OPINION Bridge

"In your personal opinion, what is a Christian?"

"What do you think of?" (God, Jesus Christ, religion, the Bible, meaning of life, etc.)

E. CURRENT ISSUES Bridge

"Rob, the Bible is a remarkably relevant book. Would you like to see what it has to say about this issue?"

F. SPORTS Bridge

"Did you know that (name of well-known athlete) is a Christian?"

G. FELT NEEDS Bridge (Used to show how Gospel answers the deepest needs of people)

"You know, I still have my share of problems, but having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ has made all the difference in how I handle them! I used to worry myself sick; God is teaching me how to have peace in the midst of the storms of life."

"Yes, Mary, I have experienced great loneliness in my life. I used to wonder if anyone would miss me or even care if I died. But I have found a relationship that is even closer than a friend, One who will never leave me."

H. PRAYER Bridge

"Is there something I could pray about for you?"

I. RELATIONSHIP Bridge

"Bill, we've been friends for a while now. We have talked together about so many things, yet there is a very important part of my life I have never shared with you. Could I share with you about my spiritual journey?"

Application:

- Practice the gospel so that I am able to clearly proclaim the hope that is in me
- Practice my personal testimony so that I can personalize what God has done in my life
- Pray every day for opportunities for evangelism
- Pray that God will lead me to people with hungry hearts
- Be ready in every season and situation to clearly proclaim the gospel
- Work at building relationships and proclaim the gospel to the people in my life
- Pray, this is a spiritual enterprise, battle
- Commit myself to evangelism as a regular way of life