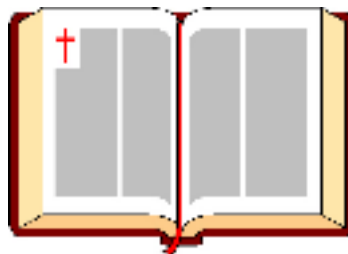


How To Effectively Witness to Others

WITNESSING 101



Notes by Ray Reynolds



HOW TO EFFECTIVELY WITNESS TO OTHERS

Notes by Ray Reynolds (Sunday AM, August 26, 2012)

Introduction: I wonder what you think of when you hear the term "witness." Do you think about a courtroom. The Old Testament confirms that those who follow God's commands should not bear false witness. The death penalty was the fate of one who violated this command! The word witness is found 121 times in our Bible and 64 of those occasions come in the New Testament. Why don't we talk about this subject more?

The Restoration Movement was bold and confident in its efforts. The Restoration Plea states: "Let us speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent. Let us call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways. Let's restore the church as it was in the days of the apostles." Restoration CANNOT be executed unless we agree that restoration is a process. It doesn't happen overnight. What we have to do is rightly divide the Word of truth (**II Timothy 2:15**). We have to read, study, and apply the principles of the NT as we learn them.

Restoration is a process that never ends. The image of the New Testament church can wear off over time. We can fall away. The luster of restoration can fade and traditions take its place. We need to re-examine our principles and the Restoration Plea. Likewise, we have to be careful not to become judgmental of those trying to do the same. In this lesson, let's consider what it means to be a biblical witness.....

Discussion:

I. The Biblical Concept of Being A Christian Witness

Where can we find the Biblical concept of witnessing?

Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 22:46-49, Acts 1:7-8

Why don't we talk about the Biblical concept of witnessing?

II. The Biblical Concept of Being A Living Epistle

Where can we find the Biblical concept of living stones?

Ephesians 4-5, Romans 12:3-8, Matthew 25:14-30, II Corinthians 3:3

Why don't we talk about the Biblical concept of living stones?

III. The Challenge of Being a Biblical Witness As A Living Epistle

What does it mean to be a Biblical witness?

II Peter 3:9, Acts 9, John 15:16, Matthew 28:19-20, Daniel 12:3

Whose example can we follow to be a living epistle? Why?

IV. The Conditions of Being a Biblical Witness As A Living Epistle

Who can be the greatest asset to the Christian faith? Greatest enemy?

**John 15:4-5, Matthew 21:22, II Timothy 2:21, Romans 10:1,
II Timothy 2:15, Galatians 6:9, Galatians 5:22-23**

What can we do to be better witnesses as a living epistle?

V. The Criteria For Effective Witnessing

What Is Evangelism?

- E = Every member is active.*
- V = Visitation is practiced.*
- A = Absentees are contacted regularly.*
- N = New members are involved.*
- G = Giving is taught and practiced.*
- E = Everyone is enrolled in Bible Classes.*
- L = Lost individuals are won to Christ.*
- I = Increased attendance at all services.*
- S = Standards are set high.*
- M = Missions are stressed.*

DO'S

- Be comfortable with your salvation.
- Be comfortable with your story.
- Determine to set goals (i.e. witness to 2-3 people a month).
- Determine to win one soul a year.
- Have faith that you can do it.
- Be strong in your prayer life.
- Be strong in your personal devotion to the Word of God.
- Visit people in their homes.
- Show them how much you care,
- Be real.
- Be authentic.
- Invite people to special events and church services.
- Bring people with you to special events and services for fellowship.
- Schedule a home Bible study.
- Share videos and tracks, but only as a secondary option to personal work.
- Have people into your homes for meals.
- Show hospitality.
- Talk about spiritual things and Bible subjects as often as possible (talk vs. debate).
- Be sensitive to their needs.
- Stay positive and NEVER talk negative about the church leadership/ members.
- Determine NOT to judge or criticize a person for their differing opinions.
- Determine NOT to discourage someone from pursuing a life of faith.
- Determine NOT to frustrate them or debate them over your differences.
- Be joyful and happy.
- Try to understand their point of view.
- Try to understand their religious background and listen to their story.
- Love them not matter where they are or what they have done.
- Try as hard as you can to meet people where they are and then determine not to leave them there.

DON'TS

- Don't forget to pray and study before you talk to someone.
- Don't forget that you are supposed to introduce them to Jesus first, not the church (we convert to Christ).
- Don't challenge people or become hard headed when witnessing to someone.
- Don't bore them with Bible teaching.
- Don't force them to use your Bible or your translation of the Scriptures.
- Don't use too many biblical references or stories, unless they ask for more information.
- Don't answer too many questions or objections without consulting a Bible.
- Don't ever, ever argue with a person!
- Don't forget that the Bible is our authority, not the preacher, or church tradition, or denominational methods.
- Don't ask questions that you don't have an answer for when talking about the Bible or religious subjects.
- Don't forget to ask open ended questions.
- Don't forget to show them love and be a good influence upon them.
- Don't forget that they are learning from your behavior and seeing Jesus in you.
- Don't express too many personal opinions or church traditions.
- Don't act timidly about touchy subjects.
- Don't assume that they know anything about the Bible or the New Testament church.
- Don't lecture, preach, or harass them.
- Don't forget patience and don't rush them to the church of the baptistery.
- Don't neglect to introduce them to other Christians that also like to witness.
- Don't forget that your witnessing can either help the next person or close the door forever.
- Don't be messy or have poor personal hygiene when talking to people.
- Don't assume the attitude of knowing it all and refusing to change yourself.
- Don't be afraid of anyone.
- Don't lose your temper.
- Don't get overly personal, especially with those of the opposite sex.
- Don't lose confidence in your own personal ability and talents.
- Don't interrupt others.
- Don't try to control a conversation.
- Don't leave a person without giving him an appropriate verse or something to think about (preferably something that helps you in your Christian walk).
- Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.
- Don't forget that we are all sinners and make mistakes.

What other ideas and suggestions do you have?

Conclusion: My prayer is that God will open your heart, fill you with His Holy Spirit, equipping for ministry, and give you a passion for lost people. If that happens Biblical witnessing will come naturally. Remember that God is living and He is the God of the living, NOT the dead (**Luke 20:38, Hebrews 11-12**). Are you ready to start running the race? Are you ready to get back in the race? Let God use you for His glory!