

Principles for Effective Soul-Winning

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Soul-Winning 101

Text: Colossians 4:2-6

Studies indicate that only **10** % of those who make decisions for Christ do so in a church service. Because of this it is all the more important that each of us are a personal evangelist. **2 Timothy 4:2**

Evangelism is simply sharing the **Good News**.

Most Christians want to be an effective witness but aren't sure **how** to. Common reasons for not sharing our faith range from feeling inadequate, intimidation and fear and even **apathy**. Evangelism is not an option, but how we do it is. There is no **one** right way to share the Gospel.

In our text Paul shows us two important ingredients to being an effective witness

1. **Dependance** **Vs. 2-4.**
2. **Discipline** **Vs. 5-6**

We must discipline ourselves to do our part in personal evangelism while, at the same time, remain dependant on God to do what only He can do. **1 Corinthians 12:3,**
Colossians 1:29

❖ **Principle # 1** - **Pray** for God to open doors. **Colossians 4:3, Ephesians 6:18-20**

Prayer is essential to evangelism, it prepares our hearts and those we will reach with the gospel. It is the Lord who opens people's hearts to **receive**.

We are dependant upon God to provide opportunities and to bring understanding to the hearer's hearts, we need guidance to teach and encourage.

❖ **Principle # 2** - Make the message **clear**. **Colossians 4:4AMP,**

For many the message of the Bible is a mystery. **Colossians 2:2**

It is our responsibility to make the message **understandable**.

There are two basic truths that are important for us to share:

- A) Who **Jesus** is.
- B) **Why** He gave His life.

Jesus is not a fictional character and He is more than a historical figure. He is the Son of God, Conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

The sins of mankind are the reason Jesus lived, willingly gave His life and the purpose of the **resurrection**.

The reason for the cross is two-fold:

- 1) **All** have sinned. **Romans 3:23**
- 2) We can do **nothing** about it. **John 1:29**

This helps others understand His **grace** and the redemption of man.

❖ **Principle # 3 - Be wise with **outsiders**. Colossians 4:5**

All people are to be treated with love, respect and dignity. Today non-believers are far removed from the norm of the Christian life. We cannot assume that non-believers are committed to Christian **values** or even understand them. How we approach them, what we say and how we say it are important. More importantly is the message we send with our daily **behaviors**. One version of the Bible uses the word conduct instead of walk. Sometimes in our zeal to relate we can become ensnared with the ways of those we are trying to win. **1 Timothy 4:16, Galatians 6:1, 1 Corinthians 9:27**

❖ **Principle # 4 - Make the most of **opportunities**. Colossians 4:5**

Opportunities have a timeframe. We are to redeem the time. That means that when the circumstances arise to share our faith we should do so.

2 Timothy 4:2, 1 Peter 3:15

How much time do you think the average believer spends on leisure? Redeem the time.

Not everyone is comfortable knocking on doors. There is no **quota** that a believer must reach in their soul-winning. When the opportunity arises we can share the scripture we know and give our **testimony**. People can argue with the Bible but they cannot dispute your experience. **Revelation 12:11**

We can make the most of every opportunity by finding a **need** and filling it. This could be as simple as compassionate prayer, listening to a problem or helping with food, clothing or another simple task.

❖ **Principle # 5 - We are to **speak** with grace and kindness. Colossians 4:6**

Many Christians are confrontational, rude and judgmental. **How** we share the Gospel is just as important as what we say. Jesus didn't see soul-winning as a challenge to conquer but He saw sheep without a Shepherd. **Matthew 9:36**
We are to be salt and light, these are welcome and helpful things. **Matthew 5:13-14**

Spirit-anointed kindness is a powerful tool for bringing people to the awareness of the power of salvation. **Romans 2:4, Colossians 3:12-13**

We have made evangelism too difficult. Many carry the unnecessary burden of feeling the need to have all the answers to every question. A passion for God and a compassionate kindness toward people will shine a light so bright that those in darkness will know the hope there is in Jesus.

❖ Principle # 6 - Respond individually. **Colossians 4:6**

Each person is unique. One of the best ways to witness is to build relationships. **1 Corinthians 9:19-22** Our message never changes but our methods will. The message - not the method - is sacred. Be authentic and sincere, this is about love not duty.