

## Approaches to Being a Contagious Christian

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Soul-Winning 101

**Text: 1 Peter 3:15**

To be contagious means to be catching by contact. Some things are better caught than taught.

Soul-Winning is a full contact endeavor. What God has done in the life of a believer is catching. A contagious disease is easily passed on to others through touching or breathing near someone. A contagious virus can only be caught from somebody the virus is living in and not in remission. The contagious Christian is one who has a living relationship with Christ. **Galatians 2:20**

Sharing God's word means speaking with others. "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God...*" **2 Timothy 3:16**

The word inspiration literally means God breathed.

We have the greatest news to tell. Remember we are not selling anything, God's grace is free. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Sharing the gospel is about relationship not salesmanship.

In order to be a Contagious Christian we must be committed to three things:

1. Loving God
2. Loving people
3. Making disciples

Harvest Community Motto:  
Love God, Love People, Love Life

To adequately share God there are three things we must understand and communicate:

- He is loving - He created us and desires a relationship with us regardless of who we are or what we have done. **Ephesians 2:10**
- He is holy - He is entirely pure. His light exposes our thoughts, actions and intentions. Only He can make us like Himself. **1 John 1:5-9**
- He is just - He is right not fair. Our sin is serious and there are consequences for it, yet He is willing to help us. **Romans 5:8**

Many Christians are hesitant to share the Gospel for many reasons. There are many ways and approaches to touch others lives. No one way is correct or better than the other. We all have a different make up, temperaments, talents, personalities and backgrounds.

All of us have a unique SHAPE

S Spiritual Gifts

H Heart

A Abilities

P Personality

E Experience

**We need to allow God to harness who we are in order to reach others effectively for Christ.**

People are looking for Christians who are authentic. Be yourself

#### Six Approaches to Sharing Our Hope

- 1) Peter's confrontational approach. **Acts 2:36-39** Peter is a ready, fire, aim type of guy. There are people who would never know Christ unless someone was "in their face" in love. It is ok to be full of zeal, but use knowledge and tact.
- 2) Paul's intellectual approach. **Acts 17:16-21**  
Paul knew how to reason with people. He enjoyed theological debate. The Bible is logical; it is for everyone, the deep thinker and the plain shooter.
- 3) The blind man's testimonial approach. **John 9:25-33**  
The man didn't get into theology, just his testimony, "I was blind but now I see."  
Literally, here is what Jesus did for me. Even a new believer can do this.  
This is a very effective way to witness. It's personal. People may argue with what you believe, but they can't deny what has happened to you. **Revelation 12:11**
- 4) Matthew's inter-personal approach. **Luke 5:27-29**  
He understood people through relationships. So he threw a banquet.  
He looked to build friendships with a few. This is Jesus' approach; He took three years to invest in twelve men. He spent time with them and ate with them. He invited those he was ministering too into his life and home.  
This approach means getting involved in other's lives. Do you enjoy sharing coffee or having people over? Do you have the gift of hospitality? Are you a good listener?

- 5) The Samaritan Women's invitational approach. **John 4:28-30, 42**  
Some people aren't comfortable or confident enough to share their faith, but they have a knack for getting people to go with them. This lady had an encounter with God. Christ ministered to her and because she was blessed, she invited people to come and hear Him. 25 % of non-Christians would go to church if someone, especially a friend, would invite them.
- 6) Dorcas' servant approach. **Acts 9:36-39**  
These are people who notice needs others don't see. They enjoy meeting needs quietly. They find a need and fill it, see a hurt and heal it. These people are gifted to share the love of God in tangible ways.