

1. COMBATTING UNBELIEF

On Sunday we looked at combating 3 doubts with three encouragements:

Don't discount yourself:

We are saved to proclaim the good news of Jesus (**1 Peter 2:9**)

Don't disqualify yourself:

We each have a unique story to tell and a unique context/opportunity to tell it.

Don't discredit the message:

The gospel is the power of God that brings salvation.

Have any of these been issues for you? If so which one is the most common?

2. WHAT ARE WE PROCLAIMING?

Discuss what the gospel is?

Hint: it's all about Jesus! It's not about what you know it's about who you know!

Use passages like **Acts 5:42, Acts 8:5, Acts 11:20, Acts 28:31, Colossians 1:28**

But a great one is **Acts 15:1-4**: *The gospel I preach to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that He was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures*

3. HOW SHOULD WE PROCLAIM IT?

- a). With compassion – Jesus wept!
- b). Be engaged - don't turn a blind eye -be proactive
- c). Be accurate – scratch where people are itching... answer questions that are actually being asked... (Sometimes the real question is being veiled - Women at the well John 4)
- d). Be authorized – understand the authority we have in Jesus to speak the truth in Love.
- e). Connect first – find common ground – areas of similarity to help build bridges (Paul in Athens - Acts 17)
- f). Don't compromise the message to make it more palatable – it IS good news but there is a cost!
- g). Use current culture and helpful vocabulary
(The above courtesy of PJ Smyth)

The message never changes but the context does!

Discuss practical ways we can engage with those around us in meaningful conversation using the pointers above. Share times where you have used your situation/context to share Jesus with others.

1 Tim 6:20 guard the deposit (Gospel) entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," **21** for by professing it some have swerved from the faith.

What do you understand Paul means by "irreverent babble"

Hint: It's very easy to get caught up in petty arguments about theology and belief – our call is to keep Jesus the main thing – We have been called to bring light not heat!

4. HOW DO WE GROW IN IT?

Worshipful Hearts lead to proclaiming hearts!

Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks... Luke 6:45

Spend time simply thanking Jesus for his gift of salvation.

Then pray the each one of us will be great guardians of the deposit (Gospel) that our lives will be centered around it as well as what comes out of our mouths! That we will be a Gospel Centered, Gospel Ready church – centered around Jesus, full of what he has done for us.

REMEMBER IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE BUT GOD'S TO SAVE:

Mark Dever *We don't fail in our evangelism if we faithfully share the gospel with someone who is not converted; we fail only when if we don't fully tell the gospel at all. Evangelism itself is not converting people; it's telling them they need to be converted and telling them how they can be.*