

## WHAT DO WE SAY WHEN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL?

Any conversation can become an opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ. Even when you are talking with a person “cold turkey” you can share the message of Christ.

Keep this simple acronym in mind in starting conversations with people:

**F**amily

**I**nterests

**R**eligious Background

**E**xamination

Ask: If you were to die today and stand before God, why would He let you into His heaven?

Then, begin to explain the message of hope through Christ:

What are the essential elements of the gospel that people must understand and have in order to become followers of Christ?

1. Understand Who God Is.
  - a. His **Person**

He is the **Creator** of Everything

*Psal 33:6 (NASB) By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.*

*7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.*

He is the **Only** True God

*Isai 43:10 (NASB) "You are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, In order that you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. 11 "I, even I, am the Lord; And there is no savior besides Me. 12 "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange [god] among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "And I am God. 13 "Even from eternity I am He; And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"*

## b. His **Perfection**

*1Job 1:5 (NASB) And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

*Josh 24:19 (NASB) Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgression or your sins. 20 "If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you after He has done good to you."*

*1Sam 6:20 (NASB) And the men of Beth-shemesb said, "Who is able to stand before the Lord, this holy God? And to whom shall He go up from us?"*

## c. His **Passions**

*Exod 20:4 (NASB) "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

*Exod 34:14 (NASB) --for you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God--15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they play the harlot with their gods, and sacrifice to their gods, and someone invite you to eat of his sacrifice;*

*Deut 4:24 (NASB) "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*

*Matt 22:37 (NASB) And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.*

## 2. Understand What Humanity's Problem is:

### a. All Men Are **Dead** to God in Sin

*Ephe 2:1 (NASB) And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

### b. All Men Are Dead in Sin **From Birth**

*Psal 51:5 (NASB) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.*

*Psal 58:3 (NASB) The wicked are estranged from the womb; These who speak lies go astray from birth.*

c. All Men Are **Alienated** From God's Fellowship

*Colo 1:21 (NASB) And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, [engaged] in evil deeds,*

*Ephe 4:17 (NASB) This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; 19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.*

d. There is **Nothing Good** in Any Man

*Roma 3:10 (NASB) as it is written,*

*"There is none righteous, not even one;*

*11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God;*

*12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one. "*

*13 "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving," "The poison of asps is under their lips";*

*14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness";*

*15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood,*

*16 Destruction and misery are in their paths,*

*17 And the path of peace have they not known."*

*18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

*Roma 3:23 (NASB) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

e. Man's **Heart is Deceptive** and Wicked

*Jere 17:9 (NASB) "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? 10 "I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.*

f. Man is **Without Hope** Without Christ

*Roma 6:23 (NASB) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

3. Understand **Who Jesus Christ Is**

a. His **Person**

He is **God**

*John 1:1 (NASB) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

*John 10:30 (NASB) "I and the Father are one." 31 The Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" 33 The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out [to be] God."*

## He Became **Man**

*John 1:14 (NASB) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*Phil 2:7 (NASB) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men.*

## He is Our Only **Savior**

*Titu 2:13 (NASB) looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*

*1Tim 2:5 (NASB) For there is one God, [and] one mediator also between God and men, [the] man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony [borne] at the proper time.*

*1Job 2:1 (NASB) My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for [those of] the whole world.*

*Colo 2:19 (NASB) and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. 20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as 21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" 22 (which all [refer to] things destined to perish with the using)-- in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?*

*John 14:6 (NASB) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.*

### b. His **Purpose**

To Become **the Ransom** for Our Sin.

*Mark 10:45 (NASB) "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

### To Seek and Save the Lost

*Luke 19:10 (NASB) "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

#### 4. Understand Salvation

##### a. It Involves a Life-Transforming **Belief**

Example: *John 4:3-42*

*John 3:16 (NASB) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

##### b. It Involves a Life-Transforming **Behavior**

Examples: *Luke 3:7-14; 19:1-10*

*Titu 2:11 (NASB) For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,  
12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,*

*Titu 2:14 (NASB) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*

##### c. It Involves **Submission** to Christ's Lordship

Example: *Matthew 19:16-22*

*Roma 10:9 (NASB) that if you confess with your mouth Jesus [as] Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; 10 for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

##### d. It Involves a Willingness to **Surrender All** to Have Christ

*Matt 13:44 (NASB) "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, 46 and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*

Once a person understands the essentials, call him to consider his personal need to repent of his sinful life and believe and embrace Jesus Christ as his only Savior and Lord.

*Acts 3:19 (NASB) "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;*

Allow them to pray. Make sure they understand the content of the gospel as well as the serious commitment being made in embracing Christ and His message of salvation.

While many give suggested prayers (these are o.k.), if a person genuinely understands what they are committed to, no pre-printed prayers should be necessary. If they don't know what to say to God, perhaps we have not explained the message well or they have not understood it clearly enough.

Be careful about pushing for a person to simply pray "the sinners prayer." Keep in mind, Jesus did not give us the commission to make decisions for Him, but to make disciples of Him.

Appendix 9 is a condensed form of the gospel presentation given above for you to use.

## HOW DO YOU USE YOUR TESTIMONY?

It would be great for you to be able to share how you personally came to Christ. It helps people to hear and see a living example of someone who was transformed by Christ. Paul certainly shared his testimony with others (*Acts 22:1-21; 24:10-21; 26:1-29*).

Appendix 7 gives some guidelines in giving your personal testimony.

Keep in mind, it is not you or your testimony you are asking people to respond to or embrace. It is the message of Christ. Your testimony is not an END but a MEANS you might use in order to share the message of Christ.

Your story will not save anyone – Christ's message alone will save. Your story is a living confirmation of Christ's message.

Don't forget the place of prayer in evangelism: (*Matthew 9:35-38*)

*Roma 10:1 (NASB) Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for [their] salvation.*

Begin now:

Make a list of at least five people you know who are unsaved:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Pray everyday that God will give you an opportunity to grow in your personal relationship with them and establish an opportunity with them to share the message of Christ.

Evangelism is a large subject and there are many wonderful resources for you to make use of in expanding your understanding and application. Appendix 8 gives a list of resources you can obtain to further your grasp on the gospel message itself and how to become more effective in sharing that message.

Keep in mind, you now have all you really need in order to be effective in sharing the gospel. The next step is yours.