

What is the gospel?

- 1st Corinthians 15:1-4, Galatians 1:1-5, Ephesians 2:8-10
- "The 'gospel' is the good news that through Christ the power of God's kingdom has entered history to renew the whole world. When we believe and rely on Jesus' work and record (rather than ours) for our relationship to God, that kingdom power comes upon us and begins to work through us."
Tim Keller

What does it mean to evangelize? Share the gospel.

- The Greek word εὐαγγέλιον originally meant a reward for good news given to the messenger (εὖ = "good", ἀγγέλλω = "I bring a message"; the word [angel](#) is of the same root) and later "good news"....Our modern word "Gospel" comes from the Old English word "Godspell." In Old English, "god" with a long "o" meant "good," and "spell" meant "word" (we carry this meaning also in our word "spelling"). So in other words, "Godspell" meant "good word."
- Spiritual and religious conversation is not evangelism—although it's often a necessary component to lay the groundwork for sharing the gospel
- "Preach the gospel always, use words when necessary."—They are necessary.
 - Romans 10:9-17 "...faith comes from hearing..."
 - Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Peter 3:15-16, 2 Timothy 4:5

How do I share the gospel? Do what Jesus did.

- Know the gospel. Know your story.
 - Develop a 30 second *and* 3-minute story of how you became Christian:
 - Life before Christ, conversion, life with Christ.
- Know your audience.
 - Ask questions and listen well.
 - Contextualize appropriately.
- Be Holy Spirit-filled and led. (John 16:7-15)
 - Pray for opportunities and open doors. (Colossians 4:2-6)

Early believers were unstoppable (Acts 4:20). Why don't I share my faith?

- Desire: I want something else (acceptance, success) more than I want to be used by God.
- Fear: I'm afraid of offending someone or being rejected.
- Lack of know-how: I'm not sure what to say or how to say it.
- Relational disconnectedness: I don't have or don't recognize opportunities to talk with others.
- Busyness: I'm too busy doing other things.

Successful Witnessing:

- Taking the initiative to share the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results to God.

Resources

- The Bible
- *CoJourners* <http://godsquad.com/evangelism/cojourners/>
- Questioning Evangelism by Randy Newman
- The Reason For God by Tim Keller
- The God Conversation by J.P. Moreland and Tim Muelhoff
- The Gospel and Personal Evangelism by Mark Dever
- www.EveryStudent.com. www.gotquestions.org, www.carm.org

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