

HOW TO BRING A PERSON TO JESUS

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2014

THE TELEVANGELIST MODEL

The televangelist model **is based primarily on one shameful fact: American Christians' reluctance to share Jesus with others.**

They know that most of you **AREN'T** doing what you're **SUPPOSED TO** be doing with regards to the Savior, **so they CLAIM to be doing it FOR YOU.**

They claim to be evangelizing "the world" **ON YOUR BEHALF.**

They **KNOW** that most Christians are too lazy and timid to talk to others about Jesus **and too dumb to realize that, as a result, they have a deep-rooted sense of guilt, and of NOT doing what they should.**

Unscrupulous televangelists TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT INNER SENSE OF GUILT - **that you may not even be consciously aware of** - and ASK YOU TO SEND THEM MONEY **SUPPOSEDLY SO "THEY CAN DO" WHAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING ALL THIS TIME.**

Makes you wonder **HOW the Early Church managed** to get out the Message and spread the Christian faith as quickly as it did, **WHEN THERE WERE NO TELEVANGELISTS.**

They did it by WORD OF MOUTH, and **primarily on a one-to-one basis.**

Sure, Peter got up and preached Christ on the Day of Pentecost and gained 3,000 souls. And Paul stood on Mars Hill in Athens and gained some converts.

But those are ISOLATED CASES. **The Gospel went forth and spread from friend to friend, house to house.**

THAT'S THE MODEL THAT JESUS gave us, and that EVERY true believer SHOULD BE FOLLOWING.

The televangelist model **is AN ABERRATION.**

I am not saying it's wrong to use TV, print media, the internet, and other forms of mass media to reach out to the lost.

What I am saying is **that's NOT THE MAIN WAY of sharing the Good News that Jesus taught or intended.**

What I'm also saying is that TELEVANGELISTS, for the most part, **DO NOT reach the lost but PREACH TO THE CHOIR.**

Their model **is to DECEIVE YOU with false promises of "prosperity" and/or GUILT TRIP YOU INTO SENDING THEM AS MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE** so they can live better than Jordan's King Hussein and so they can keep their telecasts GOING, **and DECEIVE/GUILT TRIP EVEN MORE DUMB CHRISTIANS INTO SENDING THEM CASH.**

And so the televangelism wheel goes 'round and 'round.

Even IF they were winning lost souls, **sending them money still DOES NOT EXEMPT US from PERSONALLY sharing Jesus** and His INCOMPARABLE Message of FREE GUARANTEED SALVATION TO EVERYONE - regardless of their "past" - who will give Him their whole heart and TOTALLY TRUST Him.

American Christians have lived on Easy Street for too long.

There's nothing wrong with Easy Street, *per se*, but it has made us bloated, timid and lazy.

We **HAVE THE GREATEST AND MOST WONDERFUL MESSAGE EVER GIVEN:**

We should NOT be ASHAMED of sharing Jesus with others. **We should be ASHAMED OF NOT sharing Him!**

Fact is if EVERY individual reading this did his or her part, we'd have the U.S., and at least

large parts of this world, evangelized **IN LESS THAN 3 MONTHS.**

We'd leave only a handful of hard-core Jesus-haters for the Antichrist to rule over.

Jesus' model is A LOT MORE EFFICIENT THAN the televangelist model, not to mention **A WHOLE LOT CHEAPER.**

Fact is IF EVERY ONE OF US did his part, **WE WOULDN'T NEED** televangelists.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014

HOW TO SHARE CHRIST

It's one thing to share Jesus from a pulpit, a TV studio, or a computer screen. It's another to share Him **ON A PERSON-TO-PERSON BASIS.**

It's **THE PERSON-TO-PERSON** method that I want to focus on today.

Most evangelicals have been trained by some local church to knock on doors, invite people to

OUR church, and leave some salvation tract with them.

Although this method may yield SOME result - and it certainly IS BETTER THAN NOTHING - it's NOT the best way, and **it's not the method Jesus or His apostles used.**

That it's NOT the best method IS PROVEN by the fact that **it has spawned a whole generation of confused, anorexic Christians, who live 90% of the time in worldly pursuits, who wouldn't share Christ with an 8-year old, and worse, wouldn't even KNOW HOW.**

For starters, **your goal is NOT to get people to attend or "join" your local church.**

Repeat: **your goal is NOT to increase attendance or membership for your local church.**

Nor is it to increase Sunday school attendance.

Nor is it to bring someone into YOUR denomination, should you have one.

That may serve THE PASTOR'S personal interests, **BUT IT'S NOT IN JESUS' BEST INTEREST.**

Your goal is **TO BRING THAT ONE SOUL to faith in Christ, PERIOD.**

WHERE he or she chooses to attend church - IF he or she chooses to attend on a regular basis AFTER receiving Christ - **IS ENTIRELY UP TO HIM OR HER!**

That's between Jesus and them. **Let it go.**

One-on-one evangelism requires **that you INVEST TIME in, and BECOME FRIENDS WITH, that person:**

1. GAIN THEIR TRUST

Focus on **ONE person** at a time.

Step one is to CULTIVATE that relationship, **BECOME their friend**, GRADUALLY get them to open up and GAIN THEIR TRUST.

You must have GENUINE interest in that person and demonstrate that you like them,

UNCONDITIONALLY, NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

DON'T PRY. DON'T PUSH. **Don't make them uncomfortable: Let THEM open up ON THEIR OWN.**

Talk as you would to any other friend: about your jobs, families, interests, likes, dislikes etc.

It's A LOT easier to bring A FRIEND to Christ than a stranger: Someone who likes us and trusts us and with whom we share OTHER INTERESTS:

Someone, in short, **who's become our buddy.**

2. FIND SOMETHING YOU BOTH LIKE

You don't have to START BY talking about Jesus. Talk about something else that interests you both.

If he likes football, or cars, or airplanes, then talk football, cars and airplanes. If she is into fashion, or movies, or cooking, or gardening, TALK ABOUT THAT.

Hang out. Meet for coffee. Have lunch. Go to the movies. Have them over for dinner, or to watch that "all-important" game on TV.

And BE THERE for them whenever possible: if he needs help changing a tire, or picking out a new computer, or if she needs to get her nails done, or someone to babysit.

3. Once steps one and two are met, THE REST IS A CINCH.

At some point that person will CONFIDE IN YOU and share something deeply personal, something that troubles him/her, or some challenge he/she is facing...

THAT'S when the door opens wide **AND YOU SHOULD THEN GENTLY, LOVINGLY AND PROUDLY, INTRODUCE JESUS TO THEM.**

4. DON'T COMPLICATE IT. KEEP IT SIMPLE.

Jesus' Message is SIMPLE.

It's **GOOD** news:

His ETERNAL, ABUNDANT Life in exchange for your heart.

His PERFECT righteousness in exchange for your COMPLETE TRUST.

He will forgive EVERY sin EVER committed (Matthew 12:31-32), ERASE it, come to LIVE IN YOUR HEART, and you'll NEVER be lonely again.

You can ACTUALLY EXPERIENCE the Living God and He is THE MOST EXCITING, Wonderful Person you've ever met.

He's is ALWAYS WITH YOU, you can talk to Him ANYTIME you want, day or night, and He's 100% on your side.

There is NO BETTER NEWS ANYWHERE than THAT!

5. CLOSE THE DEAL

After THEY OPEN UP and you tell them how totally Wonderful Jesus is, don't leave them hanging. CLOSE THE DEAL:

"You know, Bob, as much as you know that I like football... man, there's NOTHING in this world that compares with EXPERIENCING Jesus in your innermost being.

There's NO HIGHER "high" than that.

Jesus is THE ANSWER to any problem you're facing, and **He will give you THE WISDOM to deal with _____.**

He's made a HUGE DIFFERENCE in my life, and I know He'll do the same for you: ALL you gotta do is **INVITE Him into your heart.**

Would you like to receive Him into your heart **and EXPERIENCE Christ right now** (I promise you'll thank me later)?

When Bob or Stacey says "yes", **LEAD THEM in a SIMPLE prayer to do just that.**

6. DON'T ABANDON THEM

After they come to Christ, **you need to be an EVEN CLOSER friend than before.**

They'll have questions along the way that you need to answer.

They'll need some guidance.

Start them off by reading the NEW Testament.
Begin with the Gospel of John.

Better yet: **have a 15-minute Bible study TOGETHER twice a week.**

If he or she wants to congregate it's A LOT BETTER, MORE PRODUCTIVE, **and much less intimidating to a new believer**, to join a HOME-BASED Bible study/prayer group where it's more personal, you can ask questions, interact with OTHER believers and make new friends, than attending a local church, especially some MEGA 18,000-member church that meets in A HUGE FORTRESS-like building.

There's also NO PRESSURE about "joining" anything.

At some point AFTER they've received Christ they should be baptized in water, in obedience to Christ's directive. You or the leader of that home study group can immerse them **either in a private or public pool, or in a river.**

I discourage baptisms in lakes, because of the danger of predators (alligators, etc.) and bacteria.

There you have it: **SIX EASY steps.**

There's NO EXCUSE for **NOT** sharing Jesus.

Keeping Him **all to ourselves** is SUPREME SELFISHNESS.

Don't appear before the King of kings empty-handed. Jesus doesn't want gold or silver.

What He values more than ANYTHING, is A SAVED SOUL (Mark 8:36).

Now, go get 'em, tiger!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014

THE WORST MISTAKE

What's THE WORST mistake that Christians make when trying to bring someone to Christ?

Playing the "I'm holier than you" card.

When Gary asks you to have a beer with him, most Christians I know would reply with a self-righteous look on their faces "I'm Christian. I don't drink beer".

Why not? Jesus won't fall off His Throne because you have a couple beers.

I said "a couple", NOT 12.

Beer is THE OLDEST known beverage in the world, mentioned in the Code of Hammurabi which PREDATES even the Hebrew Bible.

And yet **the Bible doesn't utter A WORD against beer.** It does speak against GETTING DRUNK.

Jimmy Swaggart notwithstanding, **the "beer is evil" myth was INVENTED by religion. God has never said it's wrong to drink beer.**

If you happen to loathe beer, as I do, then have a glass of wine, or light cocktail (Screwdriver, Tom Collins, Bloody Mary, Pinacolada, Daiquiri).

Jesus won't have a nervous breakdown if you have a couple of those either.

The exception, of course, would be if you're a former alcoholic, or if alcoholism runs in your family (I have to say this because you never know who's reading these messages, and you'd be amazed at the TOTAL LACK OF COMMON SENSE in some people).

If such happens to be the case, then you need to tell Gary firmly "sorry, bud, I'm a recovering alcoholic and can't even GO NEAR the stuff. But I'll have some _____" (water, tea, coffee, iced tea, Coke).

What's important is that Gary doesn't perceive that you're acting as though "you're better" than he.

You GOTTA be GENUINE at all times. You GOTTA be YOURSELF.

What if he wants to WATCH PORN?

Most Christians would lecture Gary with an air of superiority: "I'm Christian and Jesus said it's wrong **to even LOOK** at a woman with lust"...

Then go home (when Gary's NOT looking) and WATCH PORN, or dig out those "hidden" magazines you stashed away: The BIG hypocrites that SOME of you are...

What you should tell Gary is: "Hey man, I like women as much as anyone, but I STAY AWAY FROM that stuff because it's addictive and you get to a point where you can't even enjoy sex with a normal female"...

All of which IS TRUE. But Gary won't perceive you as some phony who thinks he's "holier" but as A REGULAR GUY, who has some wisdom, intelligence, and self-control.

If you're going to bring **UNSAVED SINNERS** to Christ, you have to EXPECT these things to come up and BE READY to have intelligent answers that won't turn them off.

The second BIGGEST mistake is to approach people with the "change your religion OR ELSE" MANTRA.

If you're NEW to person-to-person witnessing, **YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM religious people and stick to the NON-RELIGIOUS.**

The non-religious are FAR EASIER to win - if you follow the steps given in the previous message - because they haven't been subjected to the religious brainwashing that goes on in cults.

Don't be a hero: Leave the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons, the Church of God, Adventists and Church of Christ **to experienced pros.**

Leave them to those who are thoroughly familiar with these religions' doctrines, who have EXTENSIVE knowledge of the Bible, have dealt with them in the past, who regularly listen to the Spirit of God, **and who are prepared to counter their heresies.**

Sad to say, but the average Christian lacks the **ROCK-SOLID, BIBLICAL FOUNDATION TO TACKLE** these fanatics.

They, on the other hand, are thoroughly and **PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED** to rebuff most evangelical arguments.

Chances are they'll have you wrapped around their little finger **IN NO TIME**.

My advice: **STAY AWAY FROM THEM.**

Roman Catholics are a different story.

Many Roman Catholics ARE SAVED. If they **ARE SAVED** (born-again, know Jesus intimately), **LEAVE THEM ALONE!!!**

If they're not, follow the **SIX STEPS**.

Don't start off by calling them "idolaters" or by telling them they can't have statues of Mary.

They can receive Jesus, **KNOW JESUS**, be saved, **AND REMAIN Roman Catholic, if they so choose.**

NO RELIGION ON EARTH has the power to save or damn anyone.

Jesus is INFINITELY BIGGER THAN all religion, including ALL INVENTED forms of Christianity.

STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR GOAL, which is to bring THAT PERSON to faith in Jesus:

NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.

Again, I want to make it clear that **NO ONE'S salvation depends on doing this.**

Salvation is receiving Jesus into your heart as only God and Savior and COMPLETELY TRUSTING what He did on the cross, His glorious Resurrection and Ascension **TO SAVE YOU FOR ALL ETERNITY,** period.

Well, if my Salvation DOESN'T depend on this, **what's in it for me?**

If you need to ask, you better CHECK YOUR OWN heart and **MAKE SURE Jesus lives there.**

If you knew where ALL the food in the world was, and you saw 100 people STARVING to death, **would you TELL THEM ABOUT IT, or keep it a secret?**

As important as food is to keep these bodies of ours alive, **Jesus is FAR MORE IMPORTANT;**
He is **THE** Life.

And there's NO GREATER THRILL this side of eternity than seeing a soul headed for hell, **and re-routing him or her to Jesus** who IS heaven.

