

Subject: Evangelism

Date: _____

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Module 2: The Presentation of the Soul-Winner

Lesson 7: Attitude

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:23-24

Note: How we present ourselves while presenting the Gospel to others is very important.

Ephesians 6:19-20 “And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, (20) For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

Read: 2 Timothy 2:23-26

A. Avoid

2 Timothy 2:23-26 “But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

The soul-winner will be confronted with many questions.

1. Genuine Questions

- a. Be careful not to avoid every question, and be sure to answer every question from the Scriptures.

2 Timothy 2:24 “...apt to teach, patient.”

- b. Some questions can be genuine though they may sound foolish.

Warren Wiersbe: “Paul admonished Timothy to avoid the arguments that create strifes, but not to ignore the people.”

- c. Pray for discernment to know the difference.

- d. If a person is not willing to give and take in a conversation and they only want to express their opinions, then it is a waste of time.
- e. This normally happens with false teachers that are heretics.

Titus 3:9-11 “But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. (10) A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; (11) Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.”

2. Parroted Questions

- a. These questions are asked without thinking. They are asked out of ignorance. **Matthew 27:39-44**
- b. Questions like: “How do you the Bible is true, it was written by men?”
- c. We can use parroted questions to convey the truth of the Gospel.

3. Mocking Questions

- a. The soul-winner must understand that not all who stop to listen are interested in knowing the truth.
- b. We must give a brief answer only so the scorers do not think themselves to be wise, but we should not entertain their questions.

Proverbs 26:4-5 “Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him. (5) Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.”

4. Foolish and unlearned Questions

- a. Foolish and unlearned questions are asked to distort the truth and cause trouble.
- b. They are questions that are not worthy to be answered.

William McDonald: “These are not questions connected with the great fundamentals of the Christian faith, but rather silly problems that would only succeed in wasting time and causing confusion and arguments.”

5. How to detect a foolish question:

- a. They are not profitable and cause doubt.

2 Timothy 2:14 “Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.”

But to the subverting of the hearers = Turning people away from the simple truths of the Word of God.

- b. They are not edifying and cause confusion.

1 Timothy 1:3-4 “As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, (4) Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.”

- c. They are vain (Waste of time) and cause contention.

Titus 3:9 “But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

- d. They increase unto more ungodliness.

2 Timothy 2:16 “But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”

Note: Idle and vain talk only leads to ungodly living.

- e. Hinders your Christian walk

1 Timothy 4:7 “But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.”

Example: Date and time of the coming of the Lord.

6. What would your answers be to these Questions?

1. **Mark 10:2** “And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him, Is it lawful for a man to put away *his* wife? tempting him.”

Answer in Verse 3

2. **Mark 12:14** “And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?”

Answer in Verse 15-17

3. **Mark 11:27-28** “And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders, (28) And say unto him, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?”

Answer in Verse 29-33

B. Servant of the Lord – The Man

2 Timothy 2:24-25 “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, (25) In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;”

Warren Wiersbe: “God’s slave does not have an easy time teaching the Word. Satan opposes him and tries to trap his listeners. Also, some people are just naturally difficult to teach. They enjoy “foolish and stupid arguments” and have no desire to feed on the nourishing Word of God. Until you have experienced it, you have no idea how difficult it is to impart spiritual truth to some people.”

1. Must not strive

Strive = to war, to quarrel

- a. A person can reason and persuade men from the Scriptures without fighting.
- b. We must contend for the truth without being contentious.

Jude 1:3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”

- c. Winning an argument is not the goal, but winning souls is.
- d. To avoid strife in a conversation, be careful not to speak over each other.
- e. Refrain from putting words in other people’s mouth.
- f. Listen carefully and do not jump to conclusions.

Proverbs 18:13 “He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.”

- g. Do not be tempted to engage in heated debates; instead be ready to stop aggressive arguments.

2. Gentle unto all men

Gentle = mild, not aggressive and unkind, not rude

- a. Gentleness does not mean we should not be firm and bold.
- b. There is a big difference between Holy Spirit boldness and fleshly arrogance.
- c. Boldness was granted to the disciples so that they would speak the truth, but the truth should be spoken with love.

Ephesians 4:15 “But speaking the truth in love...”

3. Apt to teach

Apt to teach = Has the ability to teach and instruct

Titus 1:9 “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”

Warren Wiersbe: “It is not enough just to expose error and refute it; we must also teach positive truths...”

Acts 17:2 “And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,”

Acts 17:17 “Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.”

Acts 18:4 “And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.”

Acts 18:19 “And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.”

Acts 18:28 “For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.”

Acts 24:25 “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”

Acts 26:28 “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

Act 28:23 “And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.”

2 Corinthians 5:11 “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

4. Patient

Patient = forbearing, enduring of ill

- a. The soul-winner must be willing to spend time with people.

Acts 19:8-9 “And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. (9) But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.”

- b. The soul-winners must not react harshly to criticism.

Acts 26:24-25 “And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. (25) But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.”

- c. You will be confronted with name calling, rude gestures and unkindness.

1 Peter 4:14-15 “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. (15) But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

5. In meekness

Meekness = Humility, do not be condescending and lofty.

David Cloud: “Meekness does not mean weakness or cowardliness”

- a. Jesus was meek and lowly, but was bold in rebuking false teachers and their teachings. **Matthew 23:13-33**
- b. There is a time to rebuke unbelievers, but we must be led of the Spirit.

Acts 13:45-46 “But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. (46) Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.”

Vernon McGee: “Finally, a believer is like a servant, and he is to be gentle to all men. It may seem like we have a contradiction here. The soldier was to fight, but the servant is not to fight. Is this a contradiction? No, it is a paradox. When you are standing for the truth, you are to be definite and let people know where you stand. Don't be a coward! Someone has put it this way, “It is said that silence is golden, but sometimes it is just yellow!” My friend, *stand* for the truth. However—

“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves.” If you are trying to win a person to Christ, don't argue with him. If he disagrees with you, let him disagree with you. Just keep on giving him the Word of God.”

C. Recovering by the Truth – The Message

2 Timothy 2:25-26 “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; (26) And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”

- a. A Spirit-led soul-winner is able to turn a hopeless situation to a successful one.

Warren Wiersbe: “The word *recover* describes a man coming out of a drunken stupor. Satan makes people drunk with his lies, and the servant’s task is to sober them up and rescue them.”

- b. How can captive sinners recover?

- The Soul-winner’s Manner of Life
- The Soul-winner’s Message. (Next Session we will see the Soul-winner’s Approach)

2 Timothy 2:25 “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

- c. The life of a Christian is not enough to win a person to Christ, the sinner must hear a clear presentation of the Gospel.

Titus 1:9 “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: (4) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.