

The Doctrine of Witnessing

- I Definition – Witnessing is the act of personally communicating the Gospel, as found in the Holy Scriptures, to unbelievers for the purpose of giving them information necessary to obtain their own salvation through faith alone in Christ alone.
 - A. Witnessing is the responsibility of every believer.
 - B. Witnessing is a primary function of a Christian's Royal Ambassadorship.
 - 1. As Royal Ambassadors we are representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth.
 - 2. Royal Ambassadors must be properly prepared, motivated and have the proper knowledge.
 - C. Witnessing, or personal evangelism, operates in parallel to the function of mass evangelism.
- II God's Agents of Witnessing
 - A. Divine institution no. 3 – Family.
 - B. Divine Institution no. 4 – The Nation.
 - 1. The Client Nation
 - 2. The Pivot of Mature Believers
 - C. The Church.
 - 1. The witness of the lips
 - 2. The witness of the life
 - D. Convincing Ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- III Understanding Necessary Doctrines for Witnessing:
 - A. Soteriology is that body of doctrines that describe the saving work of Christ.
 - B. *Sola Fide* – The means of salvation is faith alone in Christ alone.
 - C. Grace: All that God is free to do for man because of the perfect work of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. Man receives grace from God.
 - 2. Mature believers display grace to the world.
 - D. Reconciliation: The work of Jesus Christ on the Cross removed the barrier between God and man.
 - E. Redemption: By paying the price for our sins Jesus Christ freed us from the slave market of sin.
 - F. Propitiation: The sacrifice of Jesus Christ satisfied the righteous demands of the Father—Rom. 3:25; 1 John 2:2.
 - G. Imputation: The crediting of God's righteousness to the believer's account at the moment of salvation.
 - H. Unlimited atonement: Jesus Christ died for the sins of all mankind—2 Cor. 5:19; 1 Tim. 4:10; 1 John 2:2.
 - I. God's judgment of human good:
 - 1. Human good works were rejected at the Cross.
 - 2. Believer's good works are judged at Judgment Seat of Christ—1 Cor. 3:11-16.
 - 3. Unbeliever's good works are judged at the Last Judgment and are the basis for their condemnation—Rev. 20:12-15.
 - J. The Last Judgment: the final judgment of God upon those people who reject Jesus Christ as Savior—Rev. 20:11-15.

The Doctrine of Witnessing (continued)

IV The Bible: God's weapon for witnessing

- A. The Bible is the source of the Gospel—Luke 16:28-31; 1 Cor. 15:3-4
- B. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation—Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18
- C. The Bible, God's Word, is the absolute standard for truth—2 Pet. 1:19-21.
- D. The Bible is the mind of Christ—1 Cor. 2:16.
- E. God's Word is Divine power—Heb. 4:12.
- F. God's Word is never ineffective—Isa. 55:11
- G. The Word of God endures forever—Luke 21:33; 1 Pet. 1:25

V The Holy Spirit is the sovereign executive of witnessing.

- A. Unbelievers have no human spirit and cannot understand the Gospel—1 Cor. 2:14, Gen. 2:17b
 - 1. 1 Cor. 2:14 – *But a natural man does not accept [cannot understand] the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*
 - 2. Gen. 2:17b – Mankind is now born spiritually dead since Adam's fall (the Hebrew of verse 17 is best translated: "...*dying [spiritually] you will die [physically]*").



- B. The Holy Spirit makes the Gospel understandable to the unbeliever—John 16:7-11.
- C. Effective witnessing depends on the Holy Spirit's ministry:
 - 1. Directed toward the witnessing believer: control of the believer's soul—i.e. spirituality (FHS).
 - a. Ensures that the believer will receive eternal rewards connected to his witnessing efforts.
 - b. Allows the Holy Spirit to guide the witnessing presentation for optimum evangelistic effect.
 - 2. Directed toward the unbeliever—the convincing ministry of the Holy Spirit—John 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 2:14.
 - a. The Holy Spirit makes the Gospel message comprehensible to the unbeliever by acting as a human spirit.
 - b. The Holy Spirit transfers the spirit-comprehended Gospel information to the unbeliever's soul.
 - c. The Holy Spirit makes faith effective for salvation.

The Doctrine of Witnessing (continued)

- VI Fishing: the analogy to witnessing—Matt. 4:19.
 - A. Fishermen must desire to fish.
 - B. Fishermen must have the proper equipment to fish.
 - C. Fishermen must go where there are fish.
 - D. Fishermen must use good fishing technique.
 - E. Fishermen must be patient.
 - F. Fishermen will be rewarded if they have done all of the above.
- VII The Gospel presentation must be clear.
 - A. Unbelievers need pertinent Gospel information only.
 - B. Respect the boundaries of the Gospel—1 Cor.: 15:3-4
 - C. Do not dilute the Gospel of Grace with works – 1 Thess. 2:3.
 - D. Do not try to force a decision for Christ.
 - E. Respect the freedom and privacy of the unbeliever.
 - F. Do not use “hard sell” techniques.
- VIII Follow up new converts with Biblical information.
 - A. New converts need basic Bible doctrine ASAP.
 - B. Encourage new believers in consistent learning and application of Bible doctrine.
 - C. Help new converts to find Biblically sound teaching.
- IX Pitfalls of witnessing
 - A. Arguing
 - B. False issues
 - C. Getting in a rut
 - D. Embarrassing the unbeliever
 - E. Setting quotas
 - F. Measuring your spiritual life by witnessing
 - G. Judging others for apparently not witnessing
 - H. Bragging about witnessing
- X Prayer in witnessing—Rom. 10:1
 - A. Pray for advantageous circumstances for witnessing (specific requests).
 - B. Pray for successful witnessing to individuals (specific requests).
 - C. Pray for successful witnessing in our nation and the world (general requests).
 - D. Not all petitions for fruitful witnessing are granted.
- XI Rewards of witnessing—1 Cor. 9:16-17a
 - A. Rewards in time
 - 1. Joy of Christian fellowship—1 Thess. 2:17
 - 2. Inner happiness—1 Thess. 2:19-20
 - B. Rewards in eternity—1 Cor. 9:16-17a