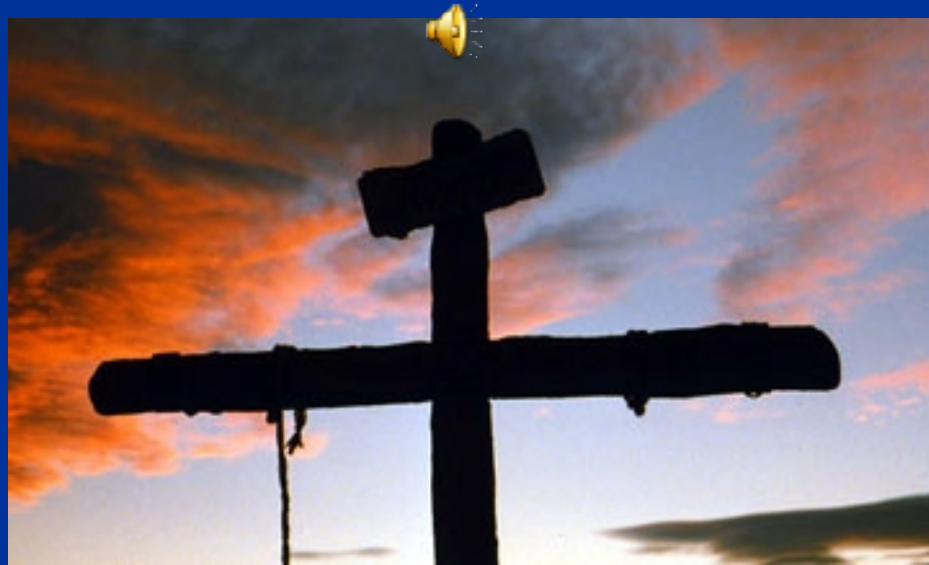


Evangelism / World Religions



Purpose

- Equip
 - Knowledge
 - Tactics
- Encourage
 - Philemon 6 - I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most ... It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance.

John Wesley

Outline

- Being an ambassador
- Basic principles
- Overview of other faiths
 - See handouts or web for more details
- Tactics to use in all situations

Three things I knew about evangelism

1. It was part of my job description.

Three things I knew about evangelism

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2. I wanted to share the truth of Jesus.

Three things I knew about evangelism

1. It was part of my job description.
2. I wanted to share the truth of Jesus.
3. I was really, really bad at it.

**How many times does
the word “love” appear
in the book of Acts?**



**How many times does
the word “love” appear
in the book of Acts?**

Zero (0)

Ambassadors for Christ

2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Ambassadors for Christ

(www.str.org)

- Knowledge
- Wisdom
- Character

How to be a bad ambassador



Homer's 3 common mistakes

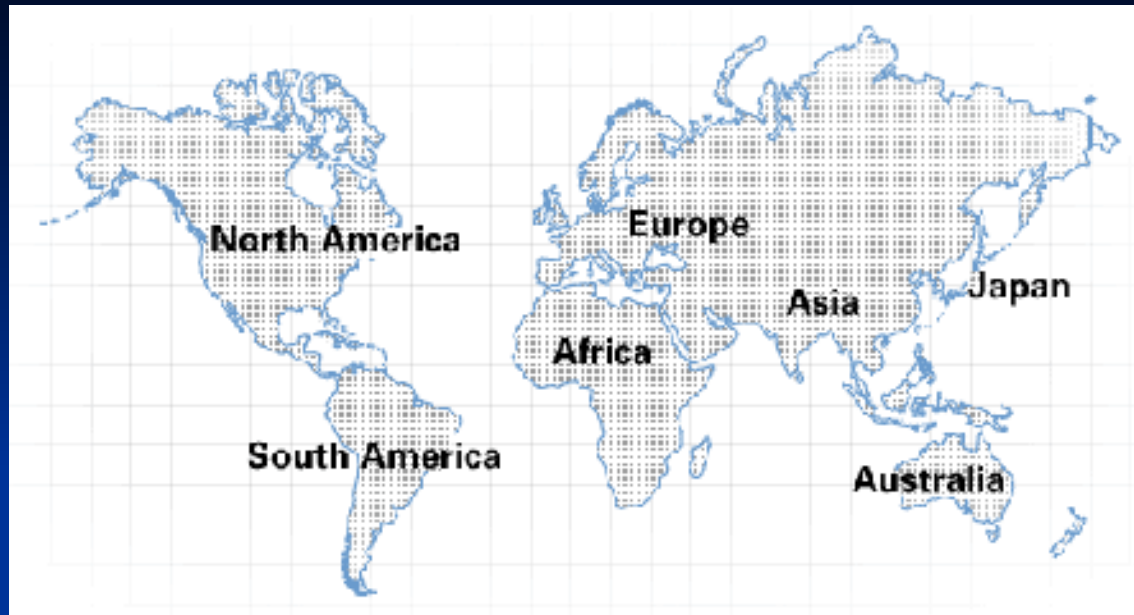
- Doesn't know about other's beliefs
- Is insensitive to other's beliefs
- Doesn't know his own beliefs

Who's in charge?

God is.

John 6:44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.



Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

2 Corinthians 4:7



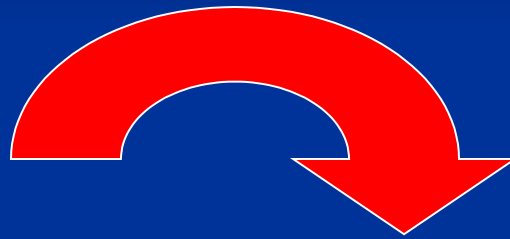
**But we have this treasure
in jars of clay to show
that this all-surpassing
power is from God and
not from us.**

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Always seek to move people to the right

Faith, from Grace



Moving towards
Jesus →

Non-
believer

Discipleship →

Believer

Pray – for opportunities

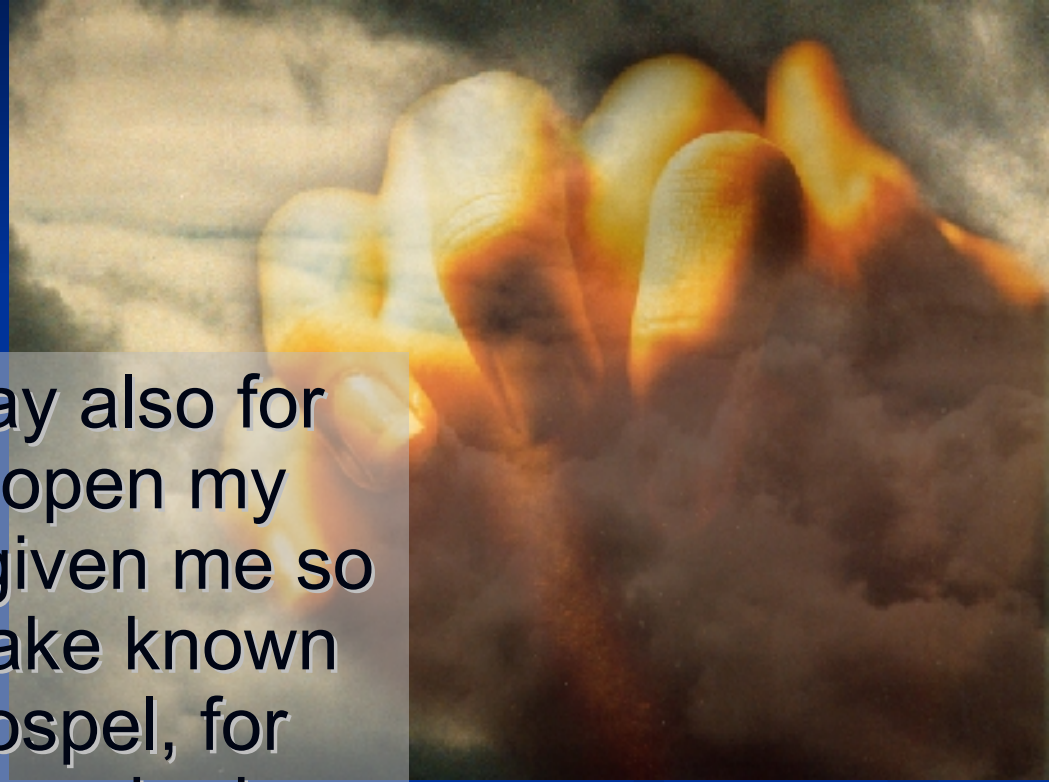
1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give them a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Pray – for others to share the Gospel

Matthew 9:36-38 - When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Pray – for what to say (*after you have prepared*)



Ephesians 6:19-20 - Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Boldness

■ Is

- Confident
- Clear
- Plain
- Biblical

■ Is not

- Pushy
- Obnoxious
- Tricky

What if they aren't interested?

- Matthew 7:6 Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.
- Matthew 10:14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.
- Pray for them

The Power of Scripture

Let the Holy Spirit work through the
Word of God



Isaiah 55:10-11

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, **so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.**

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.



Sow the seed recklessly

- Consider that others may be listening
- Matthew 13:3-9 A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path . . . Some fell on rocky places . . . Other seed fell among thorns . . . Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

The Columbo Tactic

- What do you mean by that?
 - Seek to understand and ensure you aren't misrepresenting them
- How did you come to that conclusion?
 - Listen carefully – do answers support their conclusion?
- Point out errors with questions rather than statements

If you get stumped . . .

- **“I don’t know, but I’ll find out”**
 - Humble response
 - Takes all the pressure off of you
 - Keeps you from giving bad answers
 - Gives you time to prepare better answers
 - Lets you make an appointment to come back later to talk about God
- One bad argument can undermine ten good arguments.
 - Skeptics will seize on it and use it to justify their position

Share the Gospel with words or deeds?

Yes.

- St. Francis: “Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words”
- No one is so good that they don't have to use words.
- St. Francis still used words to share the Gospel.
- The early church spread using words
- Jesus used words to share the Gospel.
- The Bible is God's Word and we are told to use it. *Romans 10:17* *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*
- Are you Marcel Marceau?

Tolerance

- Modern definition turns classical definition upside down
- Classical view: Treat people respectfully even if you disagree with them.
 - It isn't intolerant to disagree with others; you can only tolerate someone you disagree with
- Modern view: If you disagree with someone or make moral claims you are intolerant.
- If called intolerant, ask for a definition
 - Point out contradiction – their definition will be intolerant of your views
 - Challenge them to refute ideas or be changed by them.

Pluralism

- The idea that all religions are equally valid paths to God
- Seriously flawed thinking
- Basic philosophy – Something can't be "A" and "Not A" at the same time

What about those who haven't heard of Jesus?

Acts 17:26-27

From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.

“I’m a good person. Good people go to heaven.”

- Can you define “good” for me?
 - Whose gets to define it – you, me, someone else, God?
- Is that 51% good? Or 50.001%?
- Are sins done on a weighted average, or just raw numbers? Where is the scale?
- Do you have a spreadsheet to keep track of yours?
- What if you missed some?
- If you have no hope of getting to 51%, should you give up and just be evil?
- If you are at 70%, is it OK to sin on purpose?
- Where is your assurance?!

Barriers

- Family pressures
- Culture
- Misunderstanding of our problem
 - Default setting = sinner
 - Default destination = Hell
 - A good judge has no moral requirement to pardon a justly convicted criminal.

Does Christianity allow for other paths?

- No. 100 passages note that Jesus is the only way. One hundred!!
- That doesn't prove we're right, just that it is an essential Christian doctrine.
- See "Jesus is *the* way. Really." at www.4simpsons.com

Recognizing false religions

- “Jesus plus” theology
 - You need the work of Jesus on the cross *plus* something else like good deeds, purgatory, etc.
- “Jesus minus” theology
 - Jesus’ work on the cross was good and is *one* path to God, but there are other equally valid ways
- “Jesus was just a good teacher” theology
 - Good teachers don’t make false claims to be God

The main difference: Grace

■ Works

- Jewish
- Hindu
- Buddhist
- Muslim
- Mormon
- Etc.

■ Grace

- Christianity

If they come to your door or approaches you in an airport . . .

- How much easier does it get?
- Have something to hand to them
- Have a couple questions ready
- Be polite, but direct

Just the same?

Islam

- Koran says body double on the cross, not Jesus
- Jesus was just a prophet
- God leaves sins unpunished (scales)
- Spread through violence

Christianity

- Jesus died on the cross
- Jesus clearly claimed to be God. If He wasn't God, He was not a prophet.
- God punishes all sin

Just the same?

Mormon

- We lived before we came to earth
- Multiple levels of Heaven
- God used to be a man.
- Jesus = spirit brother of Lucifer.
- Saved by works
- Great neighbors? Yes!
- Christians? No.

Christianity

- God is eternally existent
- Jesus is God
- Saved by grace

Galatians 1:6-9

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all.

Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. **But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!**

Mormons

- Do they think Galatians 1 is authoritative?
 - Doe the book of Mormon teach the same Gospel as Paul, or a different one?
 - If the same, then stick with the Bible, as the book of Mormon would be redundant.
 - If different, then heed warnings of the Bible
- If they ask you to pray about the book of Mormon . . .

Just the same?

Jehovah's Witness

- Jesus isn't God
- Not allowed to take materials
- 144,000

Christianity

- Jesus is God – show verses – John 1:1-5
- Test everything; hold onto the good

Just the same?

Hindu / New Age

- Reincarnation
- This is an illusion
- Karma

Christianity

- Die once then face judgment (Hebrews 9:7)
- This is real

New Age quotes

- We create our own reality.
- This is all just an illusion.
- We are all connected / the same thing.
- There is no right or wrong.

Just the same?

Buddhist

- Goal: Eliminate desire
- The existence of the individual self is an illusion
- Self-reliant
- No creator God

Christianity

- Sin is our problem
- One God

Summary

- Be obedient – share the truth of Jesus in love where possible
- Be equipped to tell your story
- Understand their perspective
- “Faith flags”
- Pray
- Ask questions
- Proclaim the Gospel

Ambassadors for Christ

2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

The organic way

Plant seed →

Water it →

Cultivate it →

God makes it grow →

Harvest

John 4:35-38

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.

God's part: Creating opportunities by working in the lives of the lost.

Our part: Capturing the opportunities God has created.

If you are faithful, you cannot fail.

“Witness”

- One who can give a firsthand account of something seen, heard, or experienced.
- We are constantly being witnesses for Christ – the question is whether we’re doing a good job or not.
- The Bible uses “witness” as a noun, not a verb
 - Just tell how Jesus has affected your life
 - You don’t have to be a Bible expert

The Sin of Silence

**God can use your
witness, but He
cannot use your
silence.**

Bible Verse Script

- **Ask the person to read the verse aloud**
 - **Romans 10:17** Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.
- **Ask, “What does this say to you?”**
 - **Luke 10:26** “What is written in the Law?” Jesus replied. “How do you read it?”
- **If they get it wrong, ask them to read it again.**

The Plan

- Carry a small Bible with you.
- The lost person does the reading.
- The lost person does the talking.
- The Holy Spirit does the convincing.
- God's Word will bring conviction.

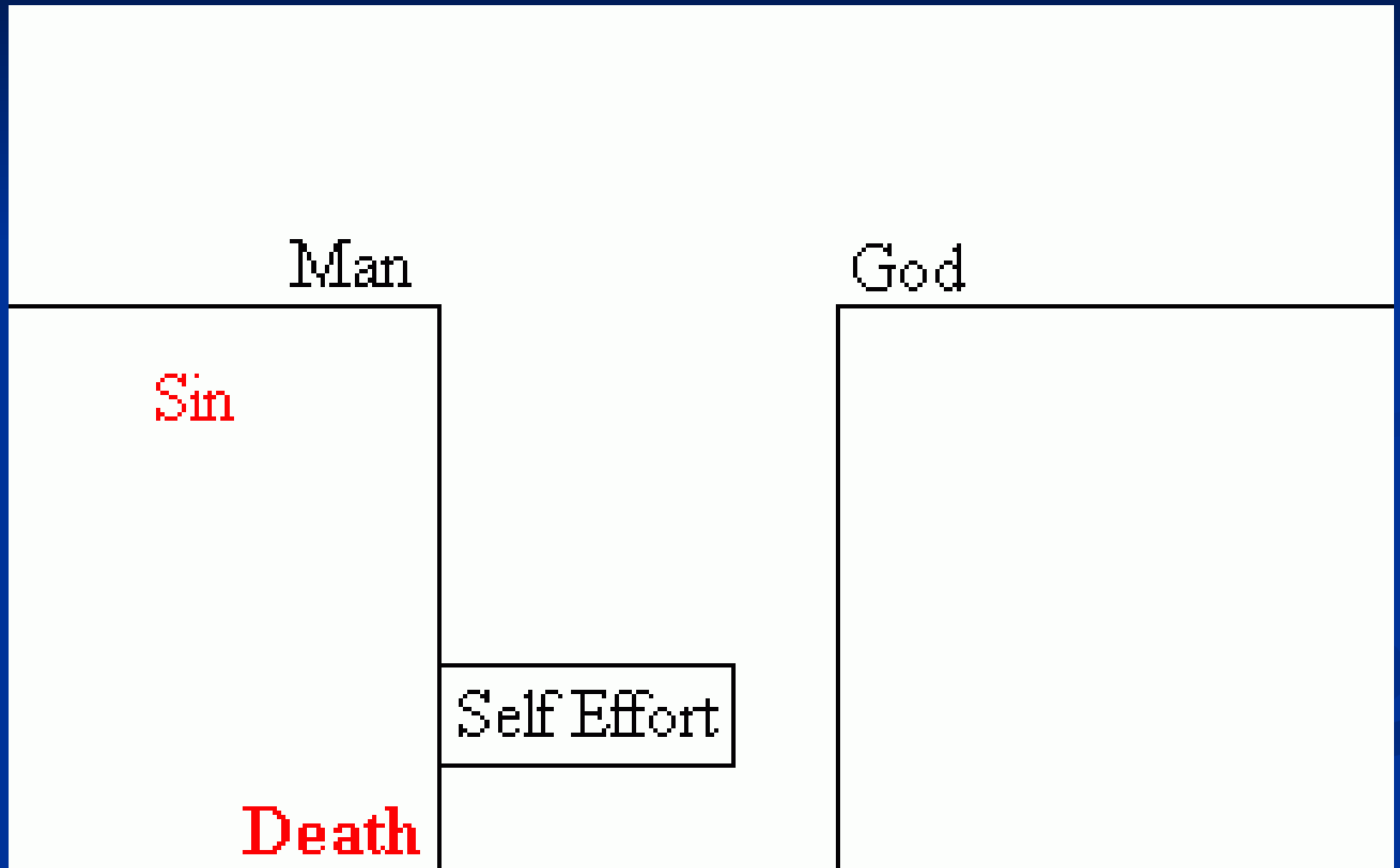
A photograph of a stone-paved Roman road winding through a rocky, forested landscape. The road is made of large, flat stones and is bordered by a low stone wall on the left. The background is a hillside covered in dense green trees and shrubs. The sky is overcast.

The Roman Road (with minor detours)

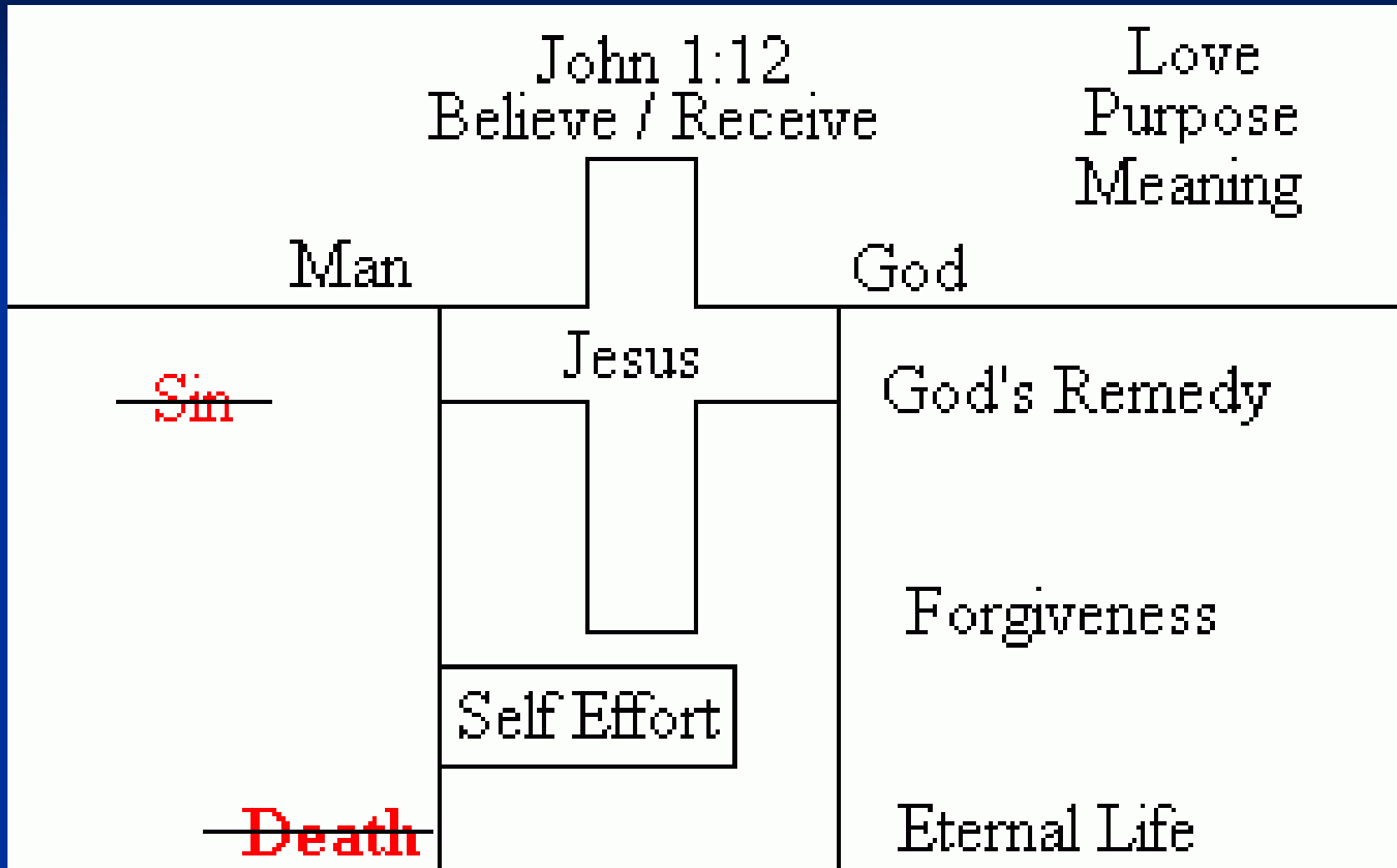
- **Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **John 3:3** In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

- **John 14:6** Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- **Romans 10:9** That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- **Revelation 3:20** Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

The Problem



The Solution

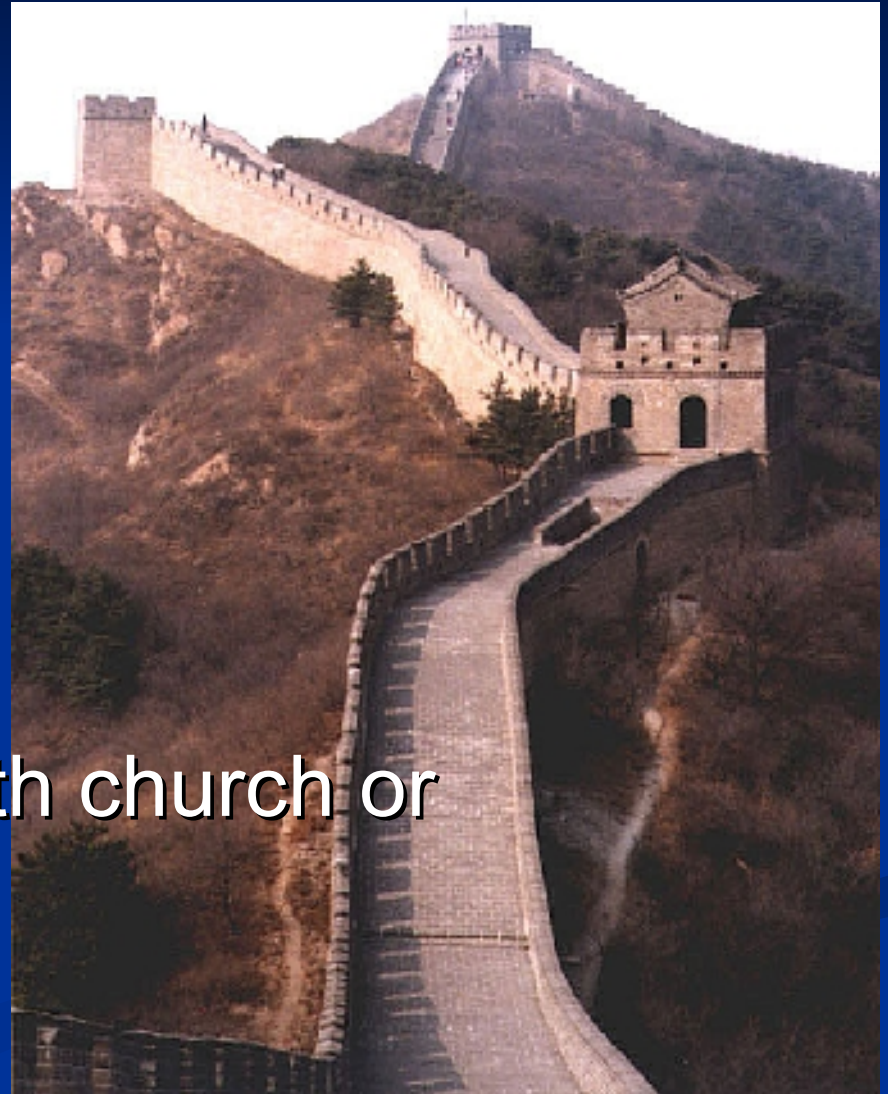


If he doesn't think he is a sinner

- Go through a few of the commandments, asking, “Have you ever”
 - lied?
 - stolen?
 - used the Lord's name improperly?
 - committed adultery / lusted?
 - lashed out in anger?
 - coveted?
 - Etc.

Barriers to accepting Jesus

- Cultural
- Intellectual
 - Misconceptions
 - Misinformation
 - Lack of information
- Holding on to sins
- Bad experiences with church or Christians
- Misinformation



Before you answer objections

- Determine their real needs & objections. For example, if someone asks, “How can there be a good God if there is so much pain in the world?”
 - Might be a legitimate theological question
 - Might be a because they have had sadness in their life and need compassion or support
 - Might be a smokescreen
- Be ready to say, “I don’t know, but I’ll find out.”
 - Then go find out.

Responding to Objections

- Keep asking, “Why?”
 - Is it a real objection, or a smokescreen?
- Be prepared with some basic answers
- If they have a sincere question you can’t answer
 - Offer to research the question further
 - Ask “If it weren’t for that, would you believe?”
- Encourage them to get into the Bible
- Invite them to church
- Repeat step 1

Now What?

2 Corinthians 5:15-17

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Assurance

1 John 5:12-13

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

**As you share Jesus
without fear, know that
you are sharing in the
power of the Lord
Almighty.**

God's part: Creating opportunities by working in the lives of the lost.

Our part: Capturing the opportunities God has created.

If you are faithful, you cannot fail.

Other “Share Jesus” Tips

- Don't just hang out with Christians
- Do good deeds
- Reconnect with people from the past
- Be an example at work; don't share on company time
- Pray before you share
- Be alert for opportunities!

Assignment

Write out an impact list of those whom you will prayerfully lay before the Lord.

Witnessing Do's

From the Christian Apologetics & Research
Ministry www.carm.org

- Do Pray.
- Do speak to please God.
- Do read your Bible.
- Do start with a positive witness for Christ. Do keep things simple.
- Do share your salvation experience with them.
- Do know what you believe.
- Do have a genuine love.
- Do be simple and define your terms.
- Do memorize appropriate Scriptures if possible.

Witnessing Do's

From the Christian Apologetics & Research
Ministry www.carm.org

- Do be patient and gentle.
- Do listen attentively.
- Do answer their questions.
- Do ask questions.
- Do let him save face.
- Do bring him, if possible, to a decision about Jesus.
- Do encourage him to study the Bible by itself.
- Do use Scripture in context.
- Do remember that greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).

Witnessing Don't's

From the Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry www.carm.org

- Don't attack directly or make fun of someone.
- Don't jump from one subject to another.
- Don't expect too much from him.
- Don't have a spiritual chip on your shoulder.
- Don't lose patience.
- Don't come on too strong.
- Don't debate peripheral issues or doctrines.
- Don't get sidetracked defending your denomination.
- Don't be uptight.
- Don't assume.
- Don't argue.
- Don't speak too fast or unclearly

**Following Jesus is a
serious commitment.**

**We shouldn't minimize the
cost of discipleship.**

**Look for people who
are looking for God**

Notes from “Going Public with Your Faith”

- Discover what God is doing in someone’s life and join that effort
 - Starting a fire in the rain vs. adding fuel to a fire
- Don’t sell Jesus or force him on others; show Him to them.
- You are a link in the chain
 - Great to be the last link, but all links count
 - Don’t be a missing link
- It is often many mini-decisions that result in following Christ, not one big decision

Notes from “Going Public with Your Faith”

- We can love and serve God and others while at work.
- Don't compartmentalize and leave your faith at the door.
- Use “faith flags” to see if people are interested in spiritual matters
- Earn the right to be heard
- Be good at your job

Notes from “Going Public with Your Faith”

- Keep it simple (you don't have to be a theologian)
- Take a sincere interest in others (common courtesies)
 - Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Notes from “Going Public with Your Faith”

- Faith stories
- Be honest & authentic
- Don't push too hard
- Use allies
- Be ready to work and invest time
- Don't be shocked by others' sins
- Don't be insulted by objections
- Non-Christians are not the enemy

3 stories

- His / her story
- Your story
- Jesus' story

Email: neil@4simpsons.com

Lessons & Bible Study Blog -
www.4simpsons.com

Christian Apologetics & Research
Ministry - <http://www.carm.org/>

Bible Answer Man www.equip.org

Stand to Reason www.str.org