

Are You Prepared?
Gospel Conversations Series – Part 1

Colossians 4:2-4; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; March 12, 2017

Our Motto and Mission

What is at the heart of why we exist as a church?

The purpose of this church is to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ who rest in Jesus, hope in God, and pursue love, by God's grace and for His glory, through the proclamation of the gospel of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. – Coast Core Commitments

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." – Acts 1:8

Fishers of Men

It is important to realize that one aspect of following Jesus is being a witness of Him to the people in our lives. This lifestyle of engagement with unbelievers is called 'fishing for men.'

¹⁴ Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." ¹⁶ As He was going along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, the brother of Simon, casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. ¹⁹ Going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who were also in the boat mending the nets. ²⁰ Immediately He called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and went away to follow Him. – Mark 1:14-20

What is evangelism?

We need to define what it is that we are called to do.

'Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade.' – Mack Stiles, *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*, p. 26.

Make the Gospel Clear

We are to pray for clarity in speaking the gospel.

² Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving*; ³ praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; ⁴ that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. - Colossians 4:2-4

Be Prepared

We are to be prepared to explain why we have hope in the face of suffering: this is the gospel.

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; ¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. - 1 Peter 3:14-16

Be Bold

We must be bold because speaking of Christ is a spiritual battle and it usually will not come easy.

¹⁸ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, ¹⁹ and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. - Ephesians 6:18-20

Beware of Fear

We must fight the fears that keep us from sharing the treasure of the gospel that we have been entrusted and therefore, keep us from loving.

⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. ⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, ¹⁰ but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. ¹² For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. ¹³ Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to *you*. - 2 Timothy 1:7-14

Application: The List

Make a list of those you can pray for who are unbelieving and ask God for an open door to speak to them and for bold clarity in doing so.

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