

Costly Conversations
Gospel Conversations Part 11
Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; May 21, 2017

Question: What if the response to the gospel is 'not yet'? Do we tell them to count the cost?

1. It costs me nothing to come to Christ and everything to follow Christ.

“Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And **you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.** – see Isaiah 55:1-3;
Revelation 21:6

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; **let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.** – Revelation 22:17

For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and **calculate the cost** to see if he has enough to complete it? – Luke 14:25-33

2. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

Faith is trust; not working; looking; leaning; resting on Christ alone for forgiveness and eternal life.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. – see Ephesians 2:8-10

Luke 18:9-14; Luke 18:15-17

⁴ Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. ⁵ But **to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly**, his faith is credited as righteousness, - see Romans 4:3-5

Romans 10:9-13; Matthew 11:28-30; John 3:14-16; Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:16-24; Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 1:17-19

3. We are not saved by a faith that is alone.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. – Ephesians 2:8-10

1 John 2:3-6; Mark 1:14-15; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30; Acts 20:21; Matthew 16:24-27; Luke 14:25-33; Luke 18:18-27; Matthew 13:44-46

4. We must come to Christ before we follow Christ.

Must make a distinction between the essence of faith and the fruit/evidence of faith. (Romans 3:21-4:8; James 2:14-26)

Must make a distinction between what happens when we come to Christ and after we come to Christ.

What must I do to be saved? The doing is to 'do nothing' but rely on what Christ has done! To rest in Jesus and His righteousness alone.

The first repentance is a change of mind about how to be saved and then a change of life! (2 Timothy 2:25; Hebrews 6:1)

In encouraging sinners to come to Christ, the focus should be on the freeness of God's grace and the finished work of Christ. In encouraging those who have called on God for mercy to follow through with baptism and participation in the body of Christ, we should focus on devotion to the Word of God with the people of God and to count the cost of following Christ.

We don't want to confuse the freeness of the free gift of eternal life and the implications of a relationship with God through Christ!

Salvation is free but discipleship is costly! And true faith always follows, even though it is costly!