

How Christians can share their faith in the workplace

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WITNESSING IS A LIFESTYLE THAT REFLECTS WHO WE ARE, DRIVEN BY GOD'S LOVE FOR A LOST WORLD.

WHY WITNESS?

The great commission:

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:6 - 1:8 ESV)

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18 - 28:20 ESV)

Followers make followers, disciples make disciples - what's the difference?

- Followers are ruled by the head, while disciples are motivated by the heart
- The head counts the personal cost (what will happen to me if I don't obey God)
- The heart doesn't and is focused on others not self (they are going to a lost eternity)

The heart drove Mother Theresa and William Booth. What drives us?

WHAT IS OUR LIFESTYLE?

- We are all a combination of experiences, beliefs and future ambitions, made up from our view of work, home, and the church. But which of those best defines who we are? (It's like asking which of our features/attributes makes me, me!)
- What we do on a Sunday no more defines us than what we do at work or in our spare time.
- Jesus sees our lives as one - he fashioned us to be ourselves but in a close relationship with him.
- There is no sacred / secular divide - witnessing is simply living the life he gave us. By doing this, people will ask us why we live like we do. (1 Peter 3:15)

EFFECTIVE WITNESSING

Romans 12:9-21:

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,"^[a] says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore

*"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."^[b]*

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Your lifestyle, attitude to work, managers, customers, colleagues, response to unfair situations will speak far louder than your words!

WITNESSING: GETTING PRACTICAL

Remember:

- People are not projects. They're people, created in the image of God, loved by Him, blinded by the devil.
- To witness requires you to have a heart-led conversation about something where there is:
 - a common interest (that may include an issue they are going through)
 - in a way that isn't weird (to them)
 - that outlines a response
 - focused on the God who loves them.
- Jesus was always surrounded by people from the secular world because He lived a life that was relevant, and focused on others.
- Jesus never condemned, moaned, considered anyone 'unworthy' (except for those who claimed to represent his Father).
- For someone to take notice of you, they will need time to observe and build up trust in you

Starting a conversation:

Jesus used everyday situations:

- living a content life despite what may be going on around or to us
- showing concern for an issue facing them
- that's why we have hobbies!

Once the conversation has started:

- It has to be about them. What do they feel, what do they think?
- Listen - it's not a question of who is right or wrong. Their opinion is their opinion, just as yours is!

Examples:

- Start a walking group. (The wonders of nature.)
- Actively support the organisation's charity or find a local hospice to get involved with (CSR!)
- ...

BARRIERS TO WITNESSING AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM

The barriers are mainly in our heads! Most people don't have a problem with God – they do with bigoted views and righteous people trying to ram their opinion down their throats!

- We fear what others may say or do to us
- We believe that talking about God is illegal
- We forget the role of the Holy Spirit in the other person's life
- ...

YOU CAN MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT BY WORKING WITH OTHERS

At Transform Work UK, we believe the most effective way of witnessing at work is for Christians to get together to form Christian Workplace Groups whose focus is to bless the organisation!

To find out how to do this visit www.transformworkuk.org or ask for our booklet 'Starting a Christian Workplace Group'.

SUMMARY

- Witnessing is about living a non- judgmental lifestyle, that's focused on blessing others.
- Remember that we are first and foremost God's ambassadors. Disciples are those that have given their lives to Him. All of it – our money, resources, time, future and ambition.
- God requires us to conduct our work as if we were working directly for Him.
- Start living out Romans 12:9-21
- Find out who else is a Christian where you work.