

Proclaiming Christ in a Secular Culture

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“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.”

Colossians 1:28-29

I. Our Calling

II. Our Culture

Secularism = an ideology marked by the absence of any binding theistic authority or belief

III. Our Struggle

- We don't love God as we should (Deut 32:3-4; Ps 96:1-3).
- We don't love people as we should.
- We don't like being uncomfortable.
- We haven't been trained.

IV. Our Job

- The Parable of the Soils (Mark 4) teaches us that not everyone's heart is prepared to receive the seed of the gospel.
- Evangelism is a process that involves cultivating, sowing, watering, and harvesting.
- Our task is to take the initiative, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to help a person move one step closer in the process of coming to Christ.

V. Tips for Proclaiming Christ in a Secular Culture

- Build friendships with unbelievers

- Pray!
 - Prepare a “Ten Most Wanted” list
 - 5-5-5 (5 friends, 5 min/day for 5 weeks)
- “Raise the flag”
 - Identify yourself as a follower of Christ
 - Keep it short and sweet
- Share faith stories
 - Talk about the living reality of your faith
 - “Once I was in a similar situation and....”
- Share your testimony of salvation
- Share a gospel illustration

An Example of a Brief Testimony that Incorporates the Gospel Message

I grew up without any idea who God was. I thought people who followed him were weak and scared and just used it as an excuse not to have fun. Well, I had a lot of fun and it led me nowhere. After high school, I joined the army and fought in Iraq. When my time was up, I left depressed, angry and confused. I longed for something real but seemed incapable of finding it.

People started telling me about Jesus, or maybe I just started listening. I learned that God loves me and wants me to love him. Jesus came to Earth and lived a perfect life to show us how to love God and each other, then died on the cross so that whoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life. This truth changed my life.

I have found true joy in loving and obeying God. I am free from the guilt of my past and no longer have to carry the burden of my wrongs because Jesus already has. Like I said, listening to people who were telling me about Jesus made me who I am today. Would you like to hear more about him?