

The Secrets of Fruitful Personal Evangelism

One of the most frightening words in the Christian walk is “*evangelism*.” Many Christians would say, “I would rather do any other task in the church, such as making the coffee or even cleaning the toilets. Just don’t ask me to evangelize!” How do we change that? What lessons can we share that will help them not only be fruitful but actually enjoy evangelism? Which of these lessons do we need to learn ourselves? We will discuss how to develop the skills of sharing our faith in a very natural, authentic, and nonthreatening way that in the end will cause us and others to love evangelism.

Ed Doepel has served as a pastor for thirty-seven years. He has planted four churches and has led churches from eight people to three thousand in membership. He is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm where he served as a Chaplain in the US Army, planting two churches in the Persian Gulf region. He is the founder of Lap 7, an organization that coordinates multiple churches in a co-op, worshipping out of the same building and performing collateral ministries in a coordinated effort to further the Kingdom of God. He and his wife are residents of suburban Chicago.

1. Be so in love with Jesus...you cannot contain yourself.

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

- There is such a positive energy that is coming from you and me that people notice something different. You have a countenance.
- No other hero in the history of civilization was as courageous as our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Stand courageously and clearly for Jesus...no matter the cost.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...” Romans 1:16

“When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus STANDING at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see heaven open and the Son of Man STANDING at the right hand of God.’” Acts 7:54-56

- When you stand for Jesus...He stands for you.

3. Developed a “What do I have to lose” attitude.

- Having seen the miracle of conversion on numerous occasions...you see God work right in front of your eyes.

4. Speak ONLY when the Holy Spirit prompts you to speak.

“Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, ‘Jesus be cursed,’ and no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:3

“Then he told them many things in parables, saying: A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”
Matthew 13:3-9

- I had not earned the right. I had not gained their trust.

“...Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...” Revelation 14:13

Suggested Readings:

Timothy Keller *“The Prodigal God”* Published by: Penguin Group – New York, NY 2008

Andy Stanley *“Fields of Gold”* Tyndale House Publisher – Wheaton, IL 2004

Bill Hybels & Mark Mittelberg *“Becoming A Contagious Christian”* Zondervan Publishing House – Grand Rapids, MI. 1994

Joseph F. Girzone *“Joshua”* (Novel) Collier Books MacMillan Publishing House – New York, NY 1983