

Evangelism Class 1
Thoughts on Conversion and Witnessing

Our calling to share our faith is one of the best known commands of a disciple of Jesus and yet it is often one which is not frequently followed by many Christians.

Often we feel uncomfortable sharing our faith because we do not know all of the answers to all of the questions we imagine skeptical people may have about Christian faith, or because we do not feel competent to share the important points of the faith, or because we do not wish to appear arrogant or rude or disrespectful of others or a know it all.

My hope in this class is to think about sharing faith as an increasingly natural thing for us. I hope that practicing ways of engaging others respectfully will feel appropriate with our personalities and relational style. I hope also to increase our awareness of people's need for Christ and to find ways of engaging and making friends with people who do not share our faith but with whom we might build relationships.

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After we have been Christians for many years most of the people we know and spend time with are believers. Usually new believers have many more relationships with those who do not profess to know Christ. So for long time believers, meeting and building friendships and relationships with people outside the church is something we will need to be intentional about. What are some ways for us to meet people outside the Christian community?

Our fear of failure or rejection often hampers our sharing our faith. I appreciated Bill Fay's seminar on Sharing Jesus Without Fear and will be referring to his material as well share some of my own as we think about and hopefully learn

about and improve our ability and desire to share our faith without fear or ineptitude. I have also asked a few people to help me teach this class. I may also ask some of you to help. I intend this to be more of a conversational class than straight lecture. I will teach some, ask some questions and entertain some discussion, allow some small group discussion or workshop exercises. I hope you will experience this class as freeing, encouraging, empowering, as well as educational.

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Christians often feel responsible for the outcome of spiritual conversations. I want to share some thoughts about conversion and whose job conversion is and whose job it is not.

Scripture that asserts that conversion is more than a decision...

Eph 2

Jn 6:44

Acts 2:47

Gen 2:4-7

Rom 9

If outcomes are not our responsibility, what does success look like?

What is it we are called to do? See Acts 1:8. Why should we be concerned with the quality of our presentation if the outcome is up to God?