

WITNESSING CONFUSION

Acts 2:41-47

Introduction: There is much confusion today in the Churches about witnessing. In some Churches there is seldom if ever a sermon preached about the responsibility of the Christian to witness, while in other Churches sermons on "how to be saved" are all that seem to be preached. Then some Churches have "soul winning" clinics and training classes and practice on one another. The thoughts about witnessing today are completely reversed from what witnessing was in the New Testament Church.

I. MOST CHURCHES OF TODAY WITNESS IN THE WRONG PLACE

1. First of all, the lost are NOT in the Church but outside the Church in the world.
2. The lost, the unbelievers, as a whole DON'T attend Church services except for special occasions if then. Sadly only 25% of a Church's membership ever attend on any given Sunday either.
3. The first Churches, the early New Testament Church did their greatest work BEFORE they ever had a building to meet in.

II. GENERALLY, THE WRONG PEOPLE ARE DOING ALL THE WITNESSING TODAY

1. God's plan for witnessing was not for ONLY the pastors and evangelists to do the witnessing! Every believer in Jesus Christ, EVERY Christian is to witness.
2. Face it! There is no way for all the preachers/pastors to win the world. Church members outnumber the pastors/preachers 400 to 1! How many witnesses would there be in YOUR Church if every single believing Church member would witness?
3. If this world is ever to be won over to Jesus Christ, it's going to take EVERY Christian to be a witness, a soul winner. The Great Commission was given to EVERY believer.

III. THE WRONG "PLAN" IS BEING USED IN MOST WITNESSING

1. SUNDAY is NOT the ONLY day to visit and witness. The lost are to be witnessed to WHERE they are found - out in the world, on their jobs, wherever they happen to be. Sunday is NOT Church day for them, it is "fun day."
2. The lost usually are not even in town on Sundays. They are everywhere else, visiting relatives, on the lakes, at ball games, at the races, at the mall, etc. But not in Church or at home.
3. Witness is to be done every day of the week, there is NO "certain" time to witness, one is to be ready to witness ANY TIME!

IV. THE WRONG EMPHASIS IS BEING USED

1. "Come hear our preacher." "Come see our new sanctuary." "Come visit our Sunday School." This is not telling someone about their need of Jesus Christ, it is "passing the buck," it is NOT witnessing!
2. The emphasis is to be upon Jesus! What the lost need to hear about is not your preacher, not your Church building, not your Sunday School Class, but the Gospel message.
3. The lost can find plenty wrong with you, your pastor, your church building, your Sunday School Class, but they can't find any thing wrong with Jesus.
4. The lost will soon forget about your pastor, your church, your class, but they will never forget what they are told and shown about Jesus. Jesus won't ignore them, nor treat them coldly, or put on an act of being superior to them as Church members often do.
5. Nobody forgets Jesus and nobody can find anything wrong with Him. Witness about Jesus and Jesus only!

V. MANY CHURCH MEMBERS ARE NOT LIVING AS THEY SHOULD

1. The lost see themselves as good as most Church members they might know.
2. The lost see too many Church members who are not living any differently than they are living. They use the same language, go to the same places, wear the same kind of clothes, do the same kind of work, have the same habits, etc. There is absolutely nothing different except on Sundays the Church member might go to Church.
3. It was by no accident that Jesus called His followers "Disciples" - "Learners."
4. If the Church and Christians are going to get the attention of the lost, then they are going to have to be respected by the lost and the only way that is going to happen is to follow Jesus' example. To be like Jesus, to obey Jesus, to care as Jesus cared.

CONCLUSION:

1. To win the lost, the Christian must go where the lost are and be respected enough to be listened to.
2. To win the lost, the Christian must speak the right words, words about Jesus.
3. To win the lost, the Christian must be ready at any moment to tell the Gospel Story.