

## Evangelism Class #9 - The Manner Behind the Message

We jumped to the end for 2 reasons: 1) You may already have all you need! 2) Now we know the direction we're heading for the rest of the quarter.

Presentation of the gospel is important, but so is the manner in which we present it.

### 1. Be Passionate

- **Acts 4:19-20, 12** - could not help but tell people!
- **2 Corinthians 5:14, 20** - Paul is pressured and hemmed in by Christ's love; it compels him!
  - Salesmen who are passionate are much more persuasive!
  - **Key to passion:** Absolutely convinced there is nothing else like it on the market.
    - **1) Experience** - He's used the product himself and knows firsthand how wonderful it is.
    - **2) Testing** - He has data to support the quality of the product, knows it holds up well under pressure.
    - **3) Confidence it'll last** - He knows it'll continue to meet your needs for years to come.
      - Same with gospel message! Our passion comes from experience, testing, and confidence! In other words — love, truth, and hope!
      - **Key:** Passion looks different for different people. Not about faking passion by being loud or jumping up and down with excitement. It's about deep, firm conviction there's nothing else like it!

### 2. Pull, Don't Push

- **2 Corinthians 5:11** - Paul persuades, he doesn't pressure or push.
- **John 12:32** - Jesus draws, not forces.
  - Pulling = taking them by the hand and leading them to a conclusion about what they need to do.
  - Pushing = giving people orders and making demands.
    - Nothing worse than a pushy salesman! Pressure tactics ignore your thoughts/feelings.
- Pulling leads them to a decision on their own. Pushing makes the decision for them.
  - **Push:** "I really think you better get baptized right now."
  - **Pull:** "After hearing about what God has done for you in Christ, doesn't that make you want to give your life to Him?"
  - **Push:** "You need to change immediately and stop living in sin."
  - **Pull:** "Sin only leaves us empty and ashamed. Instead, Jesus said He came to give us an abundant life of forgiveness and hope and freedom from guilt and shame. He came to satisfy all of our deepest needs and longings, wouldn't you rather have that than the emptiness of sin?"
    - Simply sharing the reasons why you're passionate about the message (love, truth, and hope), and trying to get the person to see the validity in those reasons.
    - **Key:** Our goal is not to "make the sale" or "get a baptism," but to make sure the person understands the gospel message for themselves.

### 3. Be Plain

- **John 4:13-14** - Be clear, simple, and straightforward. No need for fancy words.
  - The gospel is deep, but we need to speak plainly to promote understanding.
    - **Use illustrations/analogies from modern life:** Law court system for God's justice? Electric chair for crucifixion? Bridge illustration?

### 4. Plant and Pray

- **1 Corinthians 3:6-7** - God works in people's hearts through the message!
- Our job to plant and water; let God give the increase. That keeps us from being pushy to "make the sale" or fancy to impress. - **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**