Living Questionable Lives

When you think of evangelism, what questions or anxieties come to mind?

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**Colossians 4:3-6**

*And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

A suggested two-fold approach:

1. Pray for gifted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to have open doors to boldly and clearly proclaim the Gospel in compelling ways.

2. Pray for every believer to be wise in their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward outsiders, looking for opportunities to answer people’s questions when they arise.

Peter says something similar in 1 Peter 3:15-16:

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*

**DISCUSSION STOP**

**Titus 2:1-10**

*You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.****2****Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.* ***3****Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.****4****Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children,****5****to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.* ***6****Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.****7****In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness****8****and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.* ***9****Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them,****10****and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.*

Why should we behave this way?

**Habits that will help in living a questionable life.**

***Matthew 5: 14-16***

*You are the* ***light*** *of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.****15****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.****16****In the same way, let your* ***light*** *shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

L \_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy Spirit. Spend at least an

 hour a week in listening prayer.

I \_\_\_\_\_\_ others to share a meal. 3 times a week

 ask a different person to share a meal.

G \_\_\_\_\_\_ a blessing. Do, give, write or say

 something that will bless three people.

H \_\_\_\_\_\_ from the Gospels. Spend time reading

 how Jesus interacted with people.

T \_\_\_\_\_\_ inventory. Journal at least once a week

 about how you did or did not respond to God’s

 promptings.

When each habit is practiced, it releases a God-like character quality in your life:

* If you make it a habit to **listen** to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, you will become a more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christian.
* If you make it a habit to **invite** others to share a meal you will become more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* If you make it a habit to **give** blessings through the week, you will become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* If you make it a habit to **hear** from the gospels you will begin to think, act and be more like \_\_\_\_\_
* If you make it a habit to **take** inventory of what you did with God’s promptings, you will begin to see yourself as someone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by God.

Notes:

Listen

Spend once a week listening for the Spirit’s voice and promptings.

Notes:

“*Let him who cannot be alone, beware of community. He will only do harm to himself and the community*.”

 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*“Solitude and listening teaches me to love people for what they are, not for what they say.”* - Thomas Merton

Practicals:

* A designated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Eliminate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Let \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in
* Listen for God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Experience:

* 10-15 minutes of enjoying the Lord’s presence to center yourself.
* 10-15 minutes listening for promptings: faith community, unchurched route

INVITE

Invite and eat a meal with three people a week – at least one of whom is not a Church goer.

Quiz: How does the N.T. complete the following sentence:

The Son of God came …

The Son of God came …

The Son of God came …

1 Cor. 11:17-22 - the meal table should be the great equalizer in relationships

Notes:

GIVE

Give three blessings a week – at least one of whom is not a church goer.

Blessings often come in one of three forms:

* Words of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Acts of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

Hear

Spend at least one period of time during the week learning from Jesus in the Gospels what to do and say when around other people.

Notes:

Take inventory

At least once a week take inventory of how you responded or ignored the promptings of the Holy Spirit to Invite or bless someone.

What do you say right after a movie trailer?

What would God want you highlight about his kingdom in the little movie trailer encounter people see in you when you bless them or share a meal?

* J \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* W \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* R \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Soul Time

Take 30 minutes to reflect through your notes and see if God is prompting you to take some action this next week to start living a questionable life.

**Credits and Further Reading**

Michael Frost, *Surprise the World*

Lance Ford and Brad Briscoe, *The Missional Quest*

Doug Pollock, *God Space*

Lance Ford, *Missional Essentials*

Alan Hirsh, *The Forgotten Ways*