



PRACTICING EVANGELISM PT. 1 ACTS 17:16-34

- _____ yourself as a Christian. (17-18)
 - Suggestions: Mention your church, ask about others' faith and beliefs, listen to someone's struggles and mention that you will pray regularly for them, share a personal issue and mention how your faith helped give your strength, grant you forgiveness etc., share your testimony.
- Be prepared to offer _____ for being a Christian. (17-18)
 - "I believe Jesus of Nazareth was who he claimed to be."
 - Personal—"I've personally experienced God's transforming power and love in my own life."
 - Explanatory Scope—"It seems to me that the best explanation for why the universe began to exist is that it has a cause." "God is the best explanation for the existence of *objective* moral values and duties."
 - External Evidence—"The NT meets the criteria for historical reliability better than any document in history." "The best explanation for the empty tomb and post-mortem appearances of Jesus is the resurrection hypothesis."
- _____ your audience. (22)
 - **Clueless Courtney**—virtually no idea about Christianity. Don't use Christian clichés. Focus on the basic Gospel message. Perhaps share testimony. Follow-up.
 - **Apathetic Alan**—familiar with Jesus and church, not a hater, just doesn't care. Correct Misconceptions. Press the urgency, "When it comes to God and eternal life, is this something that you can afford to be wrong about?" Offer appropriate literature or to read the Bible with them. Invite them to church or your home at some point.
 - **No Thank You Nick**—has rejected Jesus/Gospel/church. Find out why! Traumatic event? Bad church experience? Hypocrites? Intellectual doubts? Respond appropriately.



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- Identify yourself as a Christian. (17-18)
 - Suggestions: Mention your church, ask about others' faith and beliefs, listen to someone's struggles and mention that you will pray regularly for them, share a personal issue and mention how your faith helped give your strength, grant you forgiveness etc., share your testimony.
- Be prepared to offer reasons for being a Christian. (17-18)
 - "I believe Jesus of Nazareth was who he claimed to be."
 - Personal—"I've personally experienced God's transforming power and love in my own life."
 - Explanatory Scope—"It seems to me that the best explanation for why the universe began to exist is that it has a cause." "God is the best explanation for the existence of *objective* moral values and duties."
 - External Evidence—"The NT meets the criteria for historical reliability better than any document in history." "The best explanation for the empty tomb and post-mortem appearances of Jesus is the resurrection hypothesis."
- Know your audience. (22)
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 - **No Thank You Nick**—has rejected Jesus/Gospel/church. Find out why! Traumatic event? Bad church experience? Hypocrites? Intellectual doubts? Respond appropriately.

- Be _____ and affirm what you can about them. (22-23, 27)
 - Paul does not start with correction, but affirmation.
 - Watch your tone! Do. Not. Get. Mad.
- Identify _____/shared values and use them as opportunities for gospel conversations. (23-29)
 - Suffering—“Ugh that’s terrible! What do you look to for hope when things like this happen?”
 - Worth/Value—“You’re so good at your job but you’re always stressed about it. Do you ever feel like your professional success is what gives you a sense of worth?”
 - Morality—“Racism is so sad, but honestly on a non-theistic worldview it’s hard to see how it’s really wrong.”
- Move to _____ and repentance. (30-31)
 - We have not evangelized until we get here!
 - Two Approaches:
 - God—Man—Christ—Response
 - Creation—Fall—Redemption—New Creation
 - Don’t soft-pedal repentance. (i.e. “God doesn’t care if you obey Him as long as you love Him.” “You don’t have to make any life changes—God loves us just the way we are.”)
- Expect _____ responses and follow-up. (32-34)
 - Some mocked...
 - Don’t be discouraged!
 - Some considered...
 - Follow-up: another conversation, literature, invitation.
 - Some believed...
 - Follow-up: discipleship, Christian community, Baptism, Bible reading and prayer.

- Be **gracious** and affirm what you can about them. (22-23, 27)
 - Paul does not start with correction, but affirmation.
 - Watch your tone! Do. Not. Get. Mad.
- Identify **common** **ground**/shared values and use them as opportunities for gospel conversations. (23-29)
 - Suffering—“Ugh that’s terrible! What do you look to for hope when things like this happen?”
 - Worth/Value—“You’re so good at your job but you’re always stressed about it. Do you ever feel like your professional success is what gives you a sense of worth?”
 - Morality—“Racism is so sad, but honestly on a non-theistic worldview it’s hard to see how it’s really wrong.”
- Move to **Christ** and repentance. (30-31)
 - We have not evangelized until we get here!
 - Two Approaches:
 - God—Man—Christ—Response
 - Creation—Fall—Redemption—New Creation
 - Don’t soft-pedal repentance (i.e. “God doesn’t care if you obey Him as long as you love Him.” “You don’t have to make any life changes—God loves us just the way we are.”)
- Expect **varying** responses and follow-up. (32-34)
 - Some mocked...
 - Don’t be discouraged!
 - Some considered...
 - Follow-up: another conversation, literature, invitation.
 - Some believed...
 - Follow-up: discipleship, Christian community, Baptism, Bible reading and prayer.