

I Believe in God...But I Don't Talk About It

Welcome/Prayer

Before you begin, pray for understanding of the scriptures, enlightenment by the Holy Spirit to guide your understanding, discernment that you may see how this lesson applies to you, and courage to surrender those things that hinder your spiritual growth.

Introduction

Throughout our current sermon series, we've been discussing the characteristics of a "Christian Atheist," a person who believes in God but gives little thought to Him in everyday living. We've learned some practical ways to help us live up to our calling and to be authentic in living what we believe as followers of Christ. The message for this study guide looks at our witness...or lack thereof. We believe in God, but we don't talk about our faith. As we discuss some of the reasons for not sharing our faith with others, let's also consider how we can overcome the obstacles that prevent us from doing the very thing Christians are called to do: to make disciples.

Break it Down

I don't talk about it because...

"I don't see the need."

When you accepted Christ, you became a minister of the Gospel. This role, the role of a Christian, also comes with responsibilities. As a new believer, you may not see the need to talk about your faith, but there are those who *need* to hear it. As a follower of Christ, each of us has a "duty" to share the Good News; it's as simple as celebrating what God has done in your life.

1. Consider a time when someone shared his/her faith with you when you needed to hear it. How did that make you feel about the need to share your own?
2. What would create a sense of urgency to share your faith?

"...of my past."

One of Satan's strongest tactics is to tap into our vulnerabilities, especially those things from our past that we're ashamed of, feel guilty about, or regret. But Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians, "Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new." (2 Corinthians 5:17). Regardless of your past, you can still be a witness for Christ and talk about your faith.

1. How can you use a past circumstance to talk about your faith?
2. When have you allowed your past to hinder your witness?—to foster your witness?

"I don't know what to say."

Do you know anyone who acts as if s/he has all the answers or anyone who seems to have the Bible memorized? It's okay not to have all the answers or not to be able to quote scripture when you talk about your faith. Not having all the answers is what makes you authentic, not unqualified. When you seek to make disciples, you grow in your own faith, too, and discover other opportunities to tell your story.

1. What fears do you have (if any) in telling your story?
2. Why is it easier to share your faith/witness in dire circumstances versus everyday living?

“I haven’t given my whole heart to God.”

This statement is characteristic of a Christian Atheistic practice. Even the Israelites were cautioned about the necessity to give their whole hearts to God. In Deuteronomy 10:10-14 (NIV), Moses tells the Israelites, “The Lord your God [wants] to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere....” If we believe in God, we are commanded to give Him our whole heart. There’s no middle ground for a follower of Christ.

1. What does it mean for you to give God your whole heart?
2. How can you make God a habit in your daily life?
3. How does giving God your whole heart affect your witness?

Conclusion

Sharing testimonies and witnessing to others, these things seem to come naturally and easily for some people and not so much for the rest of us. People can argue religion, but they can’t argue your story. Be courageous. Allow God to write His story. Believe in Him, and talk about it!

Close in Prayer