

TANGIBLE KINGDOM (3)

HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR FAITH

Message Notes

1. Be respectful of the opinions of others

1 Corinthians 10:33 amp, *"Just as I myself strive to please - to accommodate myself to the opinions, desires and interests of others - adapting myself in everything I do, not aiming at or considering my own profit or advantage, but that of the many in order that they may be saved."* (Cf. 1 Cor. 9:19)

We need a proper understanding of reconciliation...

Conditional reconciliation – my view is better than yours. If I can give you enough information, evidence or research you will come over to my side. The ideal situation is that you will agree with me and then we will be reconciled. Many times Christians engage in this kind of reconciliation but it's not ideal.

Biblical reconciliation – is a process not just an outcome. Jesus engaged with people as the constant pursuer of that which is disconnected. Should we not imitate Him?

"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life" – Romans 5:10

Colossians 1:19-23a

"Just as I myself strive to please - to accommodate myself to the opinions, desires and interests of others...

Find common ground with people. Be interested in what interests them (Matthew 2:1-2)

2. Be ready when others ask about your faith

Colossians 4:5-6, *"Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned (spiced; stimulating) with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."*

Proverbs 18:13, *"Listen before you answer. If you don't, you are being stupid and insulting."*

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..."*

Others' job – to ask (i.e. they take the initiative)
Our job – to be prepared (i.e. we do the homework)
Our attitude – gentleness & respect

If you don't know the answer to a question be honest, but find out

When the conversation is over. It's over.

Don't be judgmental or critical of the beliefs of others. Share truth rather than correct error.

Ask questions to answer questions – like Jesus did

Do not be discouraged when people don't respond to the gospel straight away. Lots of things happen that lead people on the journey towards Jesus. And some seeds that you sow you'll never see bloom (this side of heaven)

John 4:35, *"I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."*

Resources

Church without Walls series

<http://baysidechurch.com.au/category/church-without-walls/>

The Third Person (series one)

Steadfast in direction

Who's your minister?

Answers to search questions 1-3

Faithful Presence