A TRINFINITY MINI BOOK

Telling Others What Christ Has Done

Sharing your faith and your story with care

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TRINFINITY
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About this book

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Introduction

Most Christians want to tell others about Jesus, and most of us feel unqualified to do it. We worry we will say the wrong thing, get a question we cannot answer, or push someone away. I understand that fear. I also know that God uses ordinary people who are willing to open their mouths.

This book is about sharing the good news with honesty and care. It covers using God's Word, getting to the heart of the issue, telling your own story, and staying gracious with people who see things differently.

1 Ready to give an answer

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB)

First Peter 3:15 (NASB) starts in the heart. Before I can speak for Christ, I need to set Him apart as Lord in my own life. Then I can be ready when someone asks why I have hope.

Notice the last part of the verse. My answer should come with gentleness and reverence. The goal is not to win an argument. The goal is to help someone see Jesus clearly. A harsh answer can be correct and still drive a person away from the very Savior I want them to meet.

2 Letting the Word do the work

Jesus told Nicodemus that unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3, NASB). Peter later explained that we are born again through the living and enduring word of God (1 Peter 1:23, NASB). The seed that produces new life is the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit makes it grow.

That takes pressure off me. I do not have to argue anyone into heaven. Romans 10:17 (NASB) says faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. John wrote his Gospel so that people would believe that Jesus is the Christ and have life in His name (John 20:31, NASB).

So I want to know the Word well enough to use it. When I can, I like to have the other person read a verse with me, so they see it with their

own eyes. When time is short, it helps to have key verses memorized. I do not need to defend the Bible as much as I need to let it speak.

3 Getting to the real issue

People often say we are all going to the same place on different roads. Jesus did not offer Nicodemus that kind of false comfort. He was kind, but He was plain. Later He said, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me (John 14:6, NASB).

Jesus also did not get sidetracked. He did not spend the conversation correcting every wrong idea Nicodemus had. He moved it toward the one thing that mattered most, which was the new birth. I want to learn that skill. Side debates about church differences or hard doctrines can wait. The way of salvation cannot.

I also want to avoid shortcuts. Rushing someone into a prayer before they understand what they are doing does them no favors. The issues are too important. I want each person to know what sin is, what Christ did, and what it means to trust Him.

4 Telling your own story

Your testimony is simply the story of how you came to Christ. It usually has three parts: your life before you knew Him, how you came to trust Him, and what has changed since. If you came to Christ as a child, the changes may be the biggest part of your story.

A few things make a testimony clearer. Pray before you speak. Leave out church words that outsiders may not understand. Be specific instead of vague, and do not exaggerate. Make sure the listener knows that a Christian is someone forgiven because Jesus died in his place.

A few things to avoid: do not run down other churches or Christians, do not talk down to the people listening, and do not give the impression that you are now better than they are. As a Christian, the only person I am better than is the person I used to be.

I keep a story in my notes about a woman who was afraid to share the gospel with her elderly neighbors for ten years. When she finally did, she felt she had made a mess of it. Weeks later, the neighbor's son, a pastor, knocked on her door to thank her. His father and grandmother had both trusted Christ. God uses the weak things of the world (1

Corinthians 1:27, NASB).

5 Gracious with every person

Some of the people I talk with belong to groups that teach a different Jesus or a different gospel. First John 4:1 (NASB) tells me to test the spirits to see whether they are from God. The test is the Word of God. Whatever a group teaches has to be measured against Scripture.

Arguments rarely help. Second Timothy 2:24 (NASB) says the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all. I would rather keep the conversation on the person's own relationship with Jesus. A simple question works well: do you know for sure that your sins are forgiven and that you are right with God today?

Confessing Christ also means doing it openly. Jesus said everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven (Matthew 10:32, NASB). When someone trusts Christ, I want to encourage them to tell another believer right away. Sharing what God has done is good for them, and it encourages everyone who hears it.

Telling Others What Christ Has Done

Most of us want to tell others about Jesus and feel unqualified to do it. This book looks at being ready to give an answer, letting God's Word do the work, getting to the real issue, telling your own story, and staying gracious with every person.

But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB)

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