



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#27)

Why do so few in the church tell others about Jesus?

## WHY do so few tell others about Jesus?

In our nation only 3-5% of people who claim to follow Jesus, ever tell someone else about Jesus.

There are many places in the world where the followers of Jesus don't understand how people who claim to love Jesus wouldn't be willing to share that love with others.

## WHY do so few tell others about Jesus?

**The reasons WE tend to give ...**

- Tend to be excuses.
- Show that we don't understand the issues.
- Make us look better or wiser (in our own eyes) than the reasons the Bible gives.

**The reasons we find in the BIBLE ...**

- Are based on truth and reality.
- Rarely agree with the "reasons" we give.

## WHY? EXCUSES? SUCH AS:

I DON'T FEEL CALLED!

OF COURSE! "GO AND TELL OTHERS" IS A COMMAND, NOT A FEELING!

I WOULDN'T BE COMFORTABLE!

NEITHER WAS JESUS, ON THE CROSS.

PEOPLE WHO LIVE BY FEELINGS

... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God ...  
2 Tim. 3:4b (NIV)

## WHY? SUBSTITUTES? SUCH AS:

✓ ACTIVITIES AND BUSY-NESS

- Keeping busy doing all sorts of things – even good things – and failing to do what God says is more important.

COME GET YOUR FREE HOT DOGS!

GIVING FOOD TO A STARVING PERSON MAY BE GOOD. BUT NOT TELLING THEM THE GOOD NEWS IS NOT GOOD!

## WHY? SUBSTITUTES? SUCH AS:

✓ ATTENTION ON CHURCH OR SELF

- Doing (or saying) things that direct people's focus to something other than the Good News and Jesus.

COME SEE HOW WONDERFUL OUR CHURCH IS!

DEFINITELY NOT THE APOSTLE'S FOCUS!  
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.  
2 Cor. 12:9b (NIV)

**WHY?** **SUBSTITUTES? SUCH AS:**

✓ **THE FALSE GOSPEL**

- When people *think* they're "witnessing" about Jesus... but it's not the "witnessing" found in the Bible!
- It may be manipulative; it may omit the parts that people don't like to hear; it may add things God never included in the Good News.

**JESUS IS SO LOVING! IF YOU WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN, SIMPLY REPEAT THIS PRAYER ...**

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!  
Galatians 1:8 (NIV)

**WHY?** **FALSE THINKING? SUCH AS:**

✓ **WRONG PRIORITIES**

- In spite of all that Scripture says ... we just don't think it's that important! So we focus on other things.

**WE'RE NOT AGAINST WITNESSING BUT ...**

**... WE'RE FOCUSED ON A NEW BUILDING PROGRAM!**

**... WE'RE FOCUSED ON OUR OWN INTERESTS!**

**... PEOPLE WON'T LISTEN UNLESS WE FIRST FEED AND ENTERTAIN THEM!**

**... BEING "PRO-FAMILY" IS MORE IMPORTANT!**

**... I'VE GOT MY OWN INTERESTS!**

**WHY?** **FALSE THINKING? SUCH AS:**

✓ **A PERSON MUST HAVE SPECIAL ABILITIES AND KNOWLEDGE**

- We may think that only "experts" are qualified to tell others about Jesus.

**I DON'T HAVE THE "GIFT"!**

**TO GOD, A HUMBLE ATTITUDE IS MORE IMPORTANT**

But God chose the foolish things ... the weak things ... the lowly things and the despised things--and the things that are not... so that no one may boast before him.  
1 Cor. 1:27-29 (NIV)

**WHY?** **FALSE THINKING? SUCH AS:**

✓ **TOO LAZY TO LEARN**

- We put little or no effort into learning what it means to "follow Jesus," or what the "Good News" is.

**WHEN I GET THE TIME, I WILL LEARN IT. BUT RIGHT NOW, I JUST WANT TO RELAX!**

**IGNORING GOD'S COMMAND IS SIN**

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
2 Peter 3:18a (NIV)

**{ THIS IS A COMMAND! }**

**WHY?** **FALSE THINKING? SUCH AS:**

✓ **FORGETTING GOD'S ROLE IN SALVATION**

- When we think it totally depends on us, we can become overwhelmed and discouraged by our "failures."
- Remember that God uses our weaknesses to accomplish his purposes... if we are willing to obey him!

**... apart from me [Jesus] you can accomplish nothing.**  
John 15:5 (NET)

**My word, ... It will accomplish whatever I want and achieve whatever I send it to do.**  
Isaiah 55:11 (GW)

**WHY?** **A "FAKE" LIFE? SUCH AS:**

✓ **JESUS HAS NO ACTIVE PLACE IN OUR LIFE (OR: Our words don't match how we live.)**

- We may convince ourselves we're following Jesus... but it's not what others see.

**WHAT A HYPOCRITE!**

"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! ... throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"  
Matthew 25:26a, 30 (NIV)

**WHY?** **FEAR?** SUCH AS:

✓ OTHER'S DISAPPROVAL

- When we love the praise of people more than the praise of God...

**SUCH AN ATTITUDE IS NOT NEW**

They were more concerned about what people thought of them than about what God thought of them.  
John 12:43 (GW)

I WONDER WHAT THEY'LL THINK ABOUT ME??

**WHY?** **FEAR?** SUCH AS:

✓ PERSECUTION OR UNPLEASANT CONSEQUENCES

- Jesus said that following him will result in persecution. If you are avoiding obedience, to avoid persecution, who are you following?

**A GOOD EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW**

They overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.  
Rev. 12:11 (NIV)

I WON'T GET THAT PROMOTION... I MIGHT EVEN LOSE MY JOB!

**WHY?** **FEAR?** SUCH AS:

✓ LACK OF SUCCESS IN PAST WITNESSING (OR: False expectations)

- You expected people to listen. You thought that more people would get saved. But nobody cared and they all think you are weird!

I'M TRYING SO HARD, AND NOTHING'S HAPPENING!

THAT'S THE WAY THEY TREATED GOD'S PROPHETS! NOBODY LISTENED ... SOME WERE KILLED.

**WHY?** ✓ **ULTIMATELY, it's a matter of:**

**FAILURE...**

But probably not the type of **FAILURE** you're thinking of.

Rather, it's ...

**WHY?**

**FAILURE**

➤ To take { The Bible, The Holy Spirit, Prayer } seriously.

[ MORE ABOUT THIS NEXT WEEK! ]

This week's opportunity

Re-read the book of Acts.

Find out

How | The Bible, The Holy Spirit, Prayer | impacted the lives of those who were saved.

## Credits

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