



World Conquerors Church
Where You Discover Who You Were Born To Be!
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2015: THE YEAR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY!

Why Church: To Share

Presented by Pastor Daren Barron

Sermon Notes from May 31, 2015

When it comes to discipleship, churchgoers struggle most with sharing Christ with non-Christians according to a recent study of church-going American Protestants.

The study conducted by LifeWay Research found 80 percent of those who attend church one or more times a month, believe they have a personal responsibility to share their faith, but 61 percent have not told another person about how to become a Christian in the previous six months.

These distressing results came from an extensive discipleship research project focused on measuring spiritual maturity in individuals. Overall, LifeWay Research found eight biblical attributes consistently evident in the lives of maturing believers. Of those eight, "Sharing Christ" has the lowest average score among Protestant church attendees. Three-quarters of churchgoers say they feel comfortable in their ability to effectively communicate the gospel, while 12 percent say they don't feel comfortable telling others about their faith.

Despite a vast majority believing it's their duty to share their faith and having the confidence to do so, 25 percent say they have shared their faith once or twice, and 14 percent have shared three or more times over the last six months.

The survey also asked how many times they have personally "invited an unchurched person to attend a church service or some other program at your church?" Nearly half (48 percent) of church attendees responded "zero." Thirty-three percent of people say they've personally invited someone one or two times, and 19 percent say they've done so on three or more occasions in the last

six months.

"Many times we've been told new Christians are most active in sharing their faith," said Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research.

"In reality people who have been a Christian longer have higher responses for Sharing Christ than newer Christians. While new Christians may find it natural to share their new experience, mature Christians do it intentionally," said Stetzer.

According to Stetzer, "praying more frequently for the status of people who are not professing Christians is the best indicator of more spiritual maturity in the entire Sharing Christ factor."

Why Church – Missions: Share

Romans 12:13-21 (Amplified Bible, AMP)

13 Contribute to the needs of God's people [sharing in the necessities of the saints]; pursue the practice of hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you [who are cruel in their attitude toward you]; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice [sharing others' joy], and weep with those who weep [sharing others' grief]. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] and give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is honest and proper and noble [aiming to be above reproach] in the sight of everyone. 18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for [God's] wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay (requite), says the Lord. 20 But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. 21 Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome (master) evil with good.

- **Missions: The expression of God's love, identity, and grace operating through people to share with others.**
- **You cannot share what you don't have!**

Why don't people share the Gospel (The Good News of Christ)

- **Many don't feel:**
 - **Educated - the ability to study and understand the scriptures**
 - **Equipped - the ability to keep what you learned**
 - **Empowered - the ability to be fueled by the truth**
 - **Encouraged - the ability to use the scriptures as my source rather than my circumstances**

Why don't people share the Gospel (The Good News of Christ)

- **Because they don't know what it is.**
- **What is it?...The Gospel...The Good News.**

The GOOD NEWS

- **GOD BECAME A MAN – SO I could have a way to be forgiven.**

Romans 1:3-4 (The Living Bible, TLB)

It is the Good News about God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came as a human baby, born into King David's royal family line; and by being raised from the dead he proved to be the mighty Son of God, with the holy nature of God himself.

- **JESUS DIED FOR MY SINS – SO I would not have to.**

1 Corinthians 15:2-4 (New Living Translation, NLT)

It is this Good News that saves you if you firmly believe it... that Christ died for our sins. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (TLB)

For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others.

- **JESUS DESTROYED DEATH – SO I can have eternal life without condemnation.**

2 Timothy 1:10 (New Century Version, NCV)

Jesus destroyed death, and through the Good News he showed us the way to have life that cannot be destroyed.

- **SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT – SO I don't have to pay for it or qualify for it.**

Romans 3:24-25 (International Christian Bible, ICB)

People are made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. God gave Jesus as a way to forgive sin through faith.

- **IT IS BASED ON FAITH – SO when I believe, then I receive!**

Mark 1:15 (New International Version, NIV)

Jesus said, "Repent and believe the good news!"

Romans 1:17 (NCV)

The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself - that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, "Those who are right with God will live by trusting in him."

Why Church? To Share

Mark 16:15 (Contemporary English Version, CEV)

Then he told them: Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world.

Why Share?

- **Because it allows us to be an expression of God's love, identity, and grace to all He died for.**
- **Because we have been given resources to distribute only to share the source of the resource.**
- **Because God has blessed me and I cannot keep this Good News to myself.**
- **Because every now and then I get to see the seed of hope I planted turn into a harvest of love in another's life, which produces an abundance of joy in my life.**

How you can share?

- **outREACH Team**
- **Establish World Out Reach**
- **Adopt a shelter**
- **Backpacks for schools**
- **Collection & distribution of food, clothes, and toiletries**

How you can share? Conclusion

- **Tell your testimony**

Revelation 12:11 (NLT)

And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.