

Disciplines of a Disciple: Sharing the truth!

Sunday, Dec 18th 10:45a-11:30a



5 Major **DISCIPLINES**

FOR TRAINING IN GODLINESS

of a Disciple

Telling



The discipline
of devoutly
sharing

the truth with other people.

A photograph of two women sitting on a couch and talking. The woman on the left has dark hair and is wearing a white top with a pink strap. The woman on the right has long blonde hair, is wearing a striped shirt, and has her hands raised in a gesture of explanation or emphasis. The background is a simple room with light-colored walls and a window with blinds.

Sharing

Sharing is verbally telling the message of *sin* & *salvation*.

Sharing



Sharing is *explaining* to someone
the truth about *eternity*.

Sharing



Sharing is communicating the core message of gospel to someone who doesn't already understand or believe it.



Sharing

Sharing is *faithfully* informing a *friend* about spiritual realities in a biblically accurate way.

Sharing is explaining
a ***sufficient amount of the truth***
about **the bad news of sin**
and **the good news of salvation**
that someone may actually be able to
understand and ***believe*** the gospel message
for the first time.

**“sufficient
amount”**

Sharing doesn't mean that you have to share ***EVERYTHING*** there is to know about God-the Bible-Sin-Salvation. But it does mean sharing the ***NECESSARY ELEMENTS*** of the gospel message.

“of the truth”

Sharing doesn't mean that you share **YOUR** opinions, **YOUR** ideas or **YOUR** thoughts about the message of salvation...rather we share the truth about **GOD'S** opinions, **GOD'S** thoughts & **GOD'S** way of salvation.

“bad news”

“good news”

Sharing doesn't mean that we share only the **GOOD** parts of salvation; Christ, the cross, the resurrection & forgiveness. We spend much of the first half addressing the **BAD** part of sin! People have to understand they are **LOST**, before they can know how to be **FOUND!**

“understand”
“believe”

Sharing always seems to contain 4 parts...

Telling – Hearing – Understanding – Believing

A big part of sharing is making sure that we speak in such a way that people **WANT** to **HEAR**, and are **ABLE** to **UNDERSTAND**.

Without hearing & understanding...there is no believing.

“first time”

Sharing is not *testifying* about the truth in order to *build* people up in their existing faith, or to *remind* them of the foundations of their salvation or even *expand* their current understanding & growth.

Those are important things to share with **BELIEVERS**. But this sharing focuses entirely on *witnessing* to **UNBELIEVERS**.

Sharing means;
that we *faithfully & regularly*
confidently & unapologetically
yet *lovingly & graciously*
explain the truth about
the *core message* of the *gospel,*
biblically & systematically.



*Elements
of
Evangelism*

“faithfully”
“regularly”

Effective sharing is not done once or twice, hit or miss, one & done. We must faithfully share the message of the gospel to our closest friends *routinely* & *relentlessly*.

“confidently”
“unapologetically”

Effective sharing is not done out of fear or **obligation**. We share out of the **overflow** of our abundant confidence in the truths presented in
The Word of God.

“lovingly”
“graciously”

Effective sharing is done confidently but not **callously**. We must share the realities of the gospel in a very loving and **careful** way, while being completely faithful to the truth.

“biblically”

“systematically”

Effective sharing is when we tell the truth about sin & salvation in a biblically accurate way and we follow the same approach of the Bible when arranging the order of truths to be shared.

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

For this is what the Lord has
commanded us: “I have made you
a light for the Gentiles, that you
may bring salvation to the ends of
the earth.” **Acts 13:47**

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. 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. 1 Peter 3:15

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, **let your light shine before others**, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. Acts 20:24

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. **Acts 1:8**

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. **Romans 10:13-15, 17**



*Elements
of
The Gospel*

There are a lot of Christians who present a *false gospel* in their evangelism. They don't do this on purpose, but they do it nonetheless.



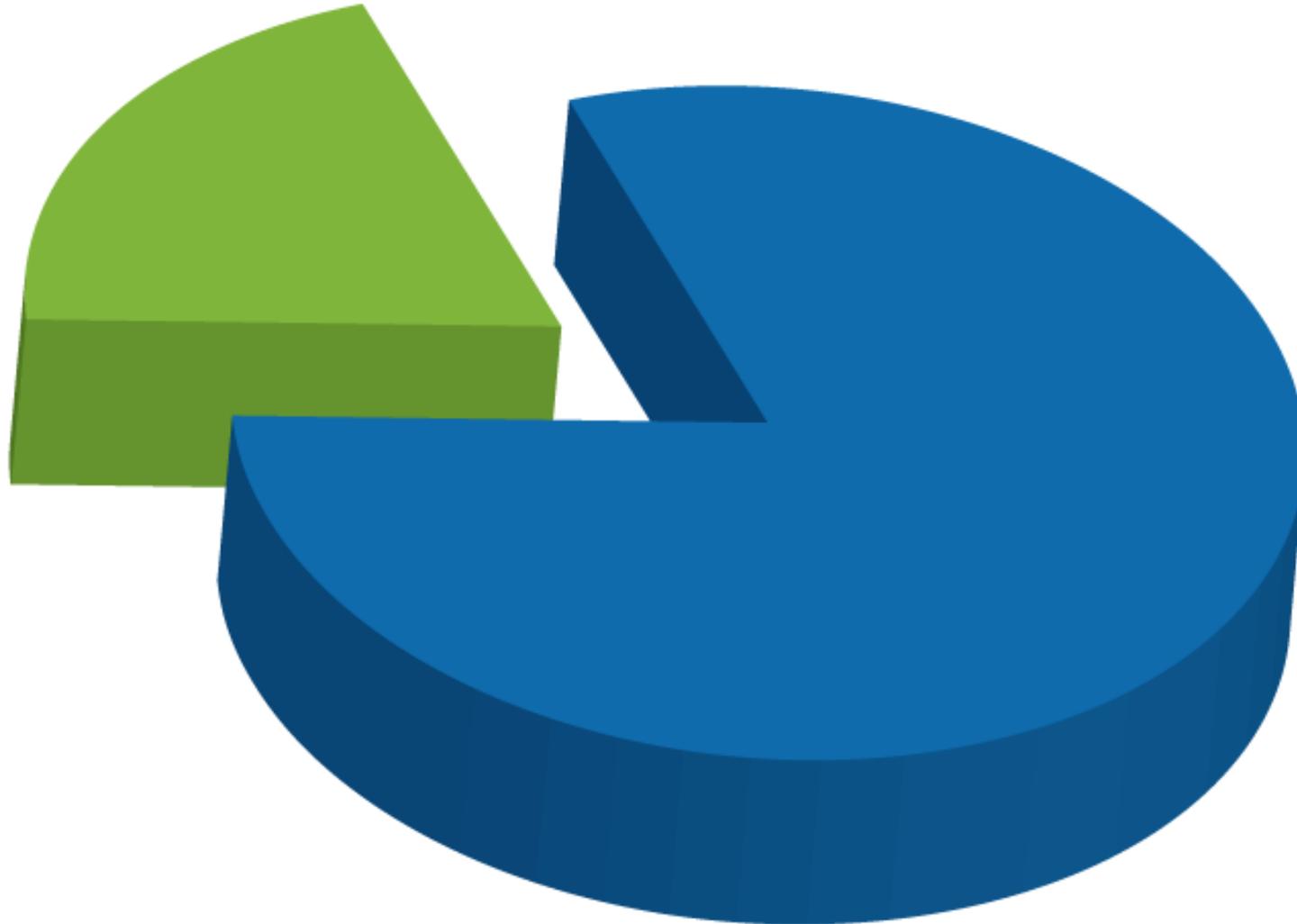
This can be done in a plethora of ways;

- (1) not expounding on the holiness of God**
- (2) not explaining the sinfulness of man**
- (3) not emphasizing the inability of man**
- (4) “Believe that Jesus died on the cross...”**
- (5) “Believe in God...”**
- (6) “Ask Jesus into your heart...”**
- (7) “Say this prayer after me...”**

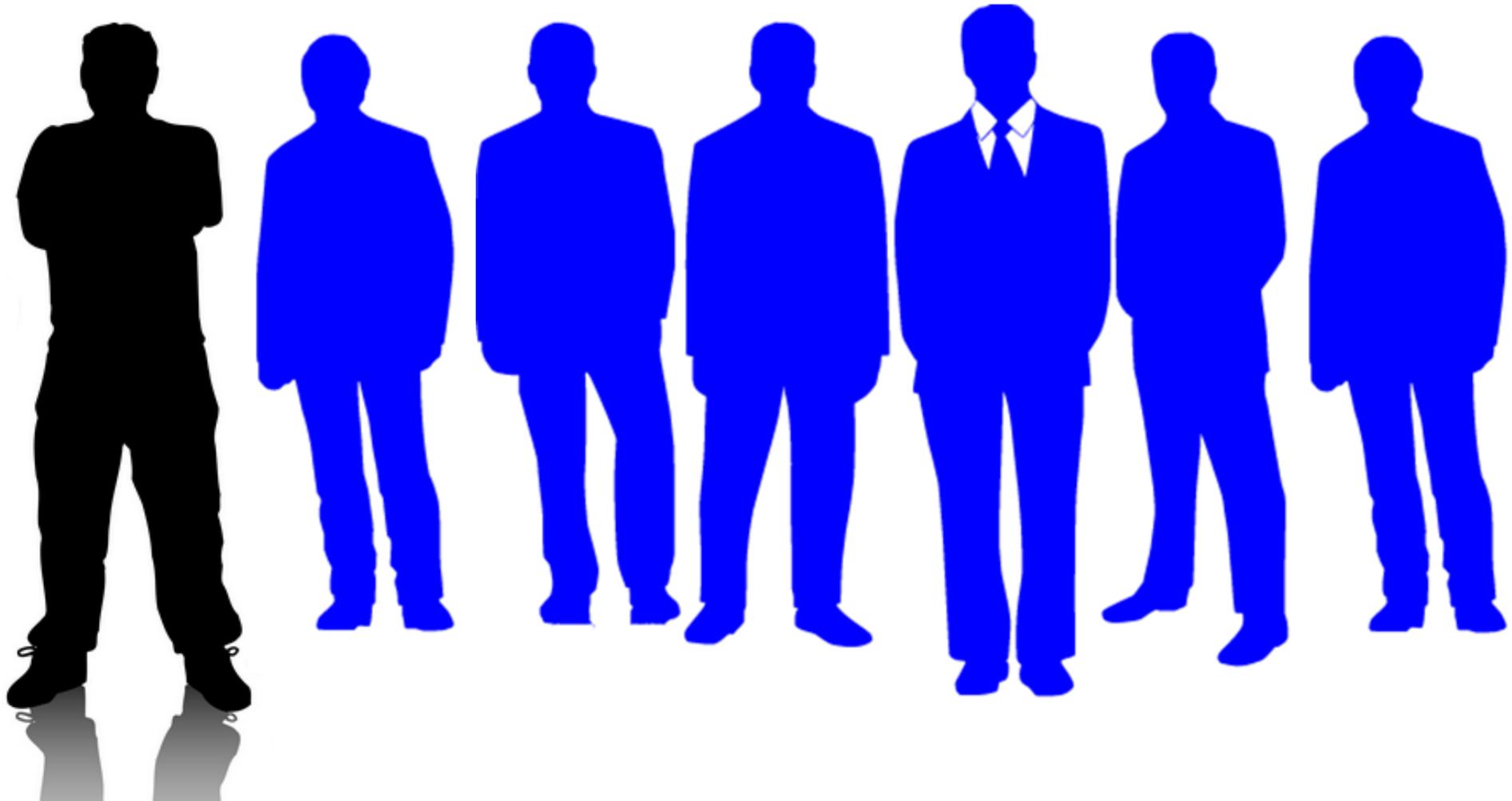
It is not **“believing in God”** or that there is a God that saves you. It is not even believing that—that God had a Son **“who died on the cross”** or even **“died on the cross for sin”** that saves you.

(James 2:19 “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder.”)

Surveys show that over 79% of Americans believe that:
“Jesus died on the cross.”



Do we believe that 79% of American's are
justified before God?



Saving faith is:

**Believing what Jesus did on the
cross truly accomplished what
God *said* it did...**

...and that:

**God will actually do what he *says*
he will do with those who
believe...and those who don't.**

...and that:

**There is no way for me or you to
achieve what God *says* the cross
accomplished on our own.**

The theme of the Bible in one sentence...

Man must *believe*
what God has *said.*

**Our job in evangelism is to tell them
what it is that God has said.**



Today we want to discuss very briefly,
what parts or *how much* of what God has said do they
need to have *heard, understood* and *believed*.



A true presentation of the gospel includes:

- **God**

- **Law**

- **Gospel**

G O D

GOD must be understood as our **creator** and ruling sustainer.

He is holy and **perfect**.

G O D

GOD *requires* holiness and
perfection from us. Holiness is
moral perfection and it is something
that God alone possesses.

G O D

GOD is the greatest good, and is *necessarily the standard* of what is good, holy and *acceptable*.

LAW

The **LAW** is a *reflection* of the perfectly holy character of God. The reason it is wrong to lie, cheat, and steal, etc. is because God's character is in direct opposition to these things.

LAW

The **LAW** is the *demand* of what we must be (holy, perfect) in order to be acceptable. Therefore, the Law becomes the visible *standard* of righteousness.

LAW

The **LAW** is also the *demonstration* that we are incapable of being what we need to be. The law shows that we are sinful, separated from God and unable to meet the standard.

LAW

The **LAW** shows that the penalty for failing to meet the righteous and holy demands of God is the punishment of physical, spiritual & eternal death.

LAW

The **LAW** shows that we are utterly and entirely unable in our own strength, power, wisdom and goodness to meet the standard and escape the punishment.

GOD & **LAW** teach us that:

God created us for His glory. Therefore, it is the duty of every person to live perfectly & righteously for the glory of God. Yet all of us have failed to live for & glorify God as we ought.

GOD & **LAW** teach us that:

Because God is infinitely, supremely, eternally holy...the punishment for not valuing him as such and not submitting to his design...is in direct proportion...infinite, supreme, eternal punishment in hell.

G O S P E L

The **GOSPEL** is the *good news* that the judgment of God upon the person who has broken God's Law can be removed in the person of Jesus.

G O S P E L

The **GOSPEL** is the *declaration* that Christ was able to perfectly fulfill the demands of the Law and offer an acceptable blood sacrifice to God the Father.

The **GOSPEL** teaches us that:

God in his mercy sent his Son to save sinners by paying their death debt with a *permanent* blood sacrifice. The benefits *purchased* by the death of Christ belong to those who repent and trust in Him and His work.

The **GOSPEL** teaches us that:

If anyone wants to escape the righteous judgment of God, and escape the punishment of breaking the law, he must 'receive' the sacrifice that Christ made on the cross.

A person 'receives the sacrifice of Christ' by...
putting their trust in what God has said about...

1. Their sinfulness

(you owe death)

2. Their inability

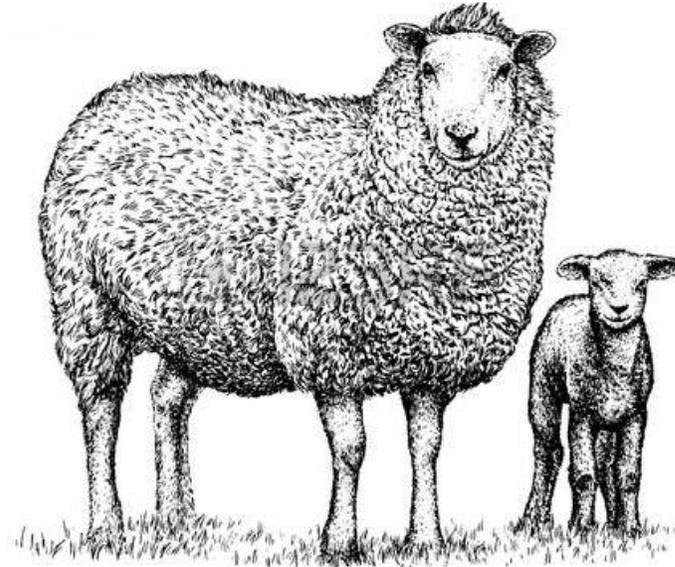
(you can't make it right)

A person 'receives the sacrifice of Christ' by...
putting their trust in what God has said about...

3. The one thing God did
(Christ paid the debt in full)

4. What happens to those who
believe (they will never perish etc.)

There are specific *accounts* & passages in the Bible that explain these *core elements* of the gospel more clearly, precisely & convincingly.



God gave us these accounts & passages in a specific order logically & theologically to help us understand better.





**The saving themes of
these accounts are all the same.**



In the new year we want to study these accounts and themes so that we will be better prepared to share.

We will also give advice & help when it comes to relationship building, conversation starters, looking for openings, finding real life parallels, slowing down, speeding up & being methodical over a period of time etc.