

Making Christ Known: Knowing Christ

John 1:1-18

March 24, 2019

We are nearing Easter, which is the most effective season of the year to share your faith in Christ! All of us want to make the most of the Easter season, but we can become easily distracted or discouraged. Today we'll learn three keys to successfully making Christ known!

1. Know Christ.

- a. Christ came to reveal God to you!
 - i. Jesus is the Word, the revelation of God the Father (John 1:1).
 - ii. Jesus is Life and Light (John 1:4), but mankind could not comprehend the Light (1:5).
 - iii. Jesus took on human flesh to reveal God to His fallen creation (1:14, 18).
- b. Christ came to redeem you!
 - i. Jesus came to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world that the sacrifice of bulls and goats could never be (Hebrews 10:1-4).
 - ii. Jesus took on a physical body to suffer death once for all mankind (1:5-10).
- c. Christ came to relate to you!
 - i. He was tempted in every way that we are tempted – Hebrews 4:15-16 “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”
 - ii. He left us a perfect example to follow – 1 Peter 2:21 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps:”
 - iii. Christ is the living Word and came to this earth so that we could witness Truth in action!
- d. Application:
 - i. Have you trusted Christ personally?
 - ii. Are you seeking to know Christ continually?
 1. Philippians 3:10 “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.”

2. Be Known as Christ's.

- a. Becoming a disciple of Christ begins with public identification with Christ.
 - i. Matthew 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 - ii. Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”
- b. Growing as a disciple of Christ depends upon repeated decisions to publicly identify with Christ.
 - i. Matthew 5:14-16 “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
 - ii. You have two choices: hide the light or shine the light.
 1. With your behavior – “that they may see your good works” (16)
 - a. Selfless behavior shines the light.
 - b. Self-centered behavior obscures the light.
 2. With your words – “and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (16)
 - a. Without an explanation, no one will know why you live the way you do.

- b. The sooner you let your friends and family know that you are a Christian, the easier it will be to talk to them about Christ. Don't be a secret Christian.

iii. Application:

1. Have you taken the first step toward public identification with Christ by being baptized?
2. Are you known as a Christian in your spheres of influence?
3. Is your Christianity your primary identity? If so, how do you express that?

3. Make Christ Known.

a. Initiate relationships with those around you.

- i. Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
- ii. Jesus showed great concern for the individual.

b. Start with learning names.

- i. Imagine how thrilled Zach
- ii. God has a record in heaven with your name on it (Luke 10:20; Revelation 21:27).
- iii. Do you have a record of the names of those that you are seeking to reach?

c. Extend hospitality.

- i. Use hospitality as an opportunity to show genuine concern and discovery of needs.
- ii. The Greek word for hospitality in the New Testament is *philoxenia*, which is a combination of two words: Love (*phileo*) and the word for stranger (*xenos*). The word literally means "love of stranger."
- iii. Hospitality is to be part of the ministry of believers.
 1. Romans 12:12-13 "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality (love of stranger)."
 2. Hebrews 13:2 "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."
 3. 1Peter 4:9 "Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

d. Share your personal testimony of faith in Christ.

- i. John 4:28-29 "The woman then left her water pot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"
- ii. Your personal testimony is one of your most powerful tools to share Christ with another person.

e. Share the gospel boldly.

- i. Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..."
- ii. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation, not your ability to persuade!

Conclusion:

1. Are your fears more real to you than your relationship with Christ?
2. Have you been too afraid to identify publicly with Christ?
3. What is one thing you can begin to implement right now to begin making Christ known to those around you?