

Making Christ Known: Be Known as Christ's

Matthew 28:19-20

March 31, 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 the second of three keys to successfully making Christ known!

Last week we learned that in order to Make Christ known, you must Know Christ.

1. Christ came to reveal God to you (John 1:1-18)!
2. Christ came to redeem you (Hebrews 10;1-4; 1:5-10)!
3. Christ came to relate to you (Hebrews 4:15-16; 1 Peter 2:21)!

Application:

- a. Have you trusted Christ personally?
- b. Are you seeking to know Christ continually?

This week we'll learn that in order to make Christ known, you must "Be Known as Christ's."

1. Becoming a disciple of Christ begins with public identification with Christ.
 - a. 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."
 - b. 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."
 - c. Before you can make Christ known, you must be known!
 - i. It's interesting to note that it seems that Christ chose disciples who were very passionate, outspoken men:
 1. Peter – he spoke passionately about everything
 2. James and John, the sons of thunder – you could hear these guys before you saw them
 3. Simon the Zealot
 4. Matthew, a tax collector
 - ii. When the time came for an apostle to the Gentiles, Christ chose Paul.
 1. Paul was a passionate man – "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem" (Acts 9:1-2).
 2. Paul redirected his passion – "Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ (Philippians 3:6-7).
 - iii. Application:
 1. Western culture suffers from the cocooning effect; we are becoming increasingly anti-social. Christians must push back against this cultural decay.
 2. Do those around you know your name? Do they know who you are?
 3. What are you doing to expand your social circle?
 - a. Neighborhood walks
 - b. Networking events
 - c. Neighborhood events
 - d. Hobby clubs
 - e. Sports
 - f. Social Media: Facebook, Nextdoor

2. Growing as a disciple of Christ depends upon repeated decisions to publicly identify with Christ.
 - a. Mathew 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.”
 - b. You have two choices: hide the light or shine the light.
 - i. With your behavior – “that they may see your good works” (16)
 1. Selfless behavior shines the light.
 2. Self-centered behavior obscures the light.
 3. Application:
 - a. Christ-likeness must be your ultimate aim.
 - b. The more like Christ you become, the more useful you become to the work of Christ, and to others.
 - c. Your life is either steadily revealing more and more of the light of Christ, or it is steadily concealing more and more of it.
 - ii. With your words – “and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (16)
 1. Without an explanation, no one will know why you live the way you do.
 2. Without an explanation, no one will know the Source of your transforming life.
 3. 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.
3. Application:
 - a. Have you taken the first step toward public identification with Christ by being baptized?
 - b. Are you known as a Christian in your spheres of influence?
 - c. Is your Christianity your primary identity? If so, how do you express that?