

Speaking for God

Introduction

Speaking to other people about the Lord Jesus is something that many of us struggle with and consequently need constant encouragement to do. Strangely enough, it is a problem that develops with time – the new Christian has many unconverted friends and is usually quite vocal about his or her new-found relationship with Jesus, though often not all that clear about what to say or how to handle questions. As we grow more mature, our knowledge grows but so does our diffidence and our circle of non-Christian friends tends to diminish. We have a lot to say but we don't often get to say it!

The Bible understands the problem and reminds us that speaking for God is a responsibility that we all share. It also urges us to remember that how we speak and how we live are as important as what we have to say. In this study we will look at a couple of key passages which will help us to make the most of every opportunity to speak for God in a way that is effective and glorifying to Him.

Study Questions

Read 1Corinthians 9vs19-23; 1 Corinthians 10vs33-11vs1. Answer the following questions from the text.

1. How does Paul view himself with regard to those whom he is trying to reach with the gospel?
2. What matters most to Paul in his dealings with those who are still unconverted? What does this mean in practice for the way Paul acts?
3. What safeguards Paul from simply becoming a people pleaser?

Read 2 Corinthians 4vs1-6 and 1 Peter 3vs15-16. Answer the following questions from the text.

1. What must we not do when speaking to others about Christ?
2. What must we be careful to do?
3. Why is it so difficult for people to believe the gospel?
4. What hope can we have for success in evangelism?
5. What should characterise the way we speak to people about the gospel?

Think it Through

What have these passages taught you about:

1. Our relationships with non-Christians?
2. Our motivation for sharing the gospel with others?
3. The content of the gospel?
4. Our method of sharing the gospel?