

Christian Stewardship
Living Life as a Good Steward of Jesus Christ
December 7, 2008

Sharing the Message of God's Love

Acts 1:8; Ephesians 6:13-17; Romans 6:4; I Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Timothy 4:10; John 1:42;
Daniel 12:3

As Jesus' earthly ministry was drawing to a close, He opened the minds of the disciples to understand the scriptures. He showed them how he had to fulfill all that the Law of Moses, the Psalms, and the prophets had written about Him. Jesus reminded them of all that He had preached to them concerning His death, burial, and resurrection. He drafted them into an army of the Lord that would go out and preach repentance and forgiveness of sins are only found in the name of Jesus Christ. They were the prime candidates because they lived, walked, and talked with Jesus, while on He was on earth. Also because they had front row seats to all the miracles, especially Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Now it was their turn to continue to spread the news. Jesus commanded them to be witnesses. This word for witness comes from a word in Greek that means martyr, someone who gives their life, even to the death, for what they believe. When you turn you life over to Christ, you are declaring that you want to be a witness. You are stating publicly that you believe in Jesus so strongly that you want to spend the balance of your life, as one who will testify of what they believe, even to the death, if it were to ever come to that.

1. Jesus came as a witness to God's Love.

God never asks us to do anything that He hasn't done first. He can ask us to give because He loved us so much He gave His only begotten son. He asks us to forgive because the Bible says that if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He can ask us to love our enemies because He first loved us. He can even ask us to be perfect or Holy, because that is who and what He is. He sent his son as an example to show us what he expected. Jesus comes and demonstrates for us all that God has commanded us to do.

Jesus shows us how to love, live, give, and forgive. He displayed for us the power that is available through prayer. He demonstrated the fortitude of living a life completely surrendered to the will of God. He was always quoting scripture because He studied the word of God and lived life according to the letter of the law. Jesus is everything that we are trying to be. But ultimately Jesus was the supreme witness. Remember a witness has such strong convictions about what he believes that he would literally give his life in defense of that belief. Jesus believed no man could get to God except through Him. So he built the bridge of salvation that spanned the gulf that was created by your sin and separated you from God. There should never be a question in your mind of how much God really loves you. Romans 5:8 says that God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2. He sends us out to be witnesses of His Love for us.

If we believe what we say we believe then we should have no difficulty sharing the good news of God's love with whomever we come into contact. Notice that the disciples were instructed to

start in the places closest to where they lived and then make their way out, further and further, like concentric circles. When a rock is dropped in a still pond it makes waves that go out from the point where the rock first entered the water. What does that mean for you today? First of all start in your home. Your first mission field should be those who share the same roof as you. You should witness to your children about Jesus and live a life before them that demonstrates all that Jesus has commanded. Share the Bible stories. Pray together. The individuals in your family shouldn't have to wait to get to church before they hear about God's love. It should be evident in your home.

As you go away from your home, you encounter different people everyday. There are probably people who live on your street that you pass on the way to church. At your schools and places of employment, there are people who need to see and hear about God's love. You have extended family that may not have been afforded the opportunity to hear about God's love. This also means to be involved in world missions. You can support the work of international missionaries even if you do not decide to be one yourself.

3. Witnessing for Jesus is a way of Love.

Witnessing is not just what we say we believe. What you believe always comes out in how you live. You ought to always live in a manner that glorifies God. You are in fact the temple of the Holy Ghost. That means you cannot take your temple anywhere you like. You may not do anything with your temple that you like. You are not allowed to give your temple to whomever you like. This even includes what you eat or consume. You have to be careful of what is placed inside your temple, because it is the residence of the Holy Spirit.

This is all so important because people pay more attention to what you do than what you say. You have to always remember people are watching you and how you interact with the world and how you interact with life. They want to know if you really believe all the things about God that you say you do. They want to know first is God real to you. Can God save and make a difference in your life? Can he heal, forgive, deliver, and save? That's why we must daily put on the whole armor of God. You need God to be a Christian. You need His power to stay holy. You need his guidance and direction when you must stand up and speak out about what you believe.

4. Our witness must be as noted in I John 3:16

I John 3:16 (ESV) says, "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." You show your love for others by sharing the good news of God. It is easy to share His love with others that are like you, like-minded, same ethnicity, culture, religious, and political beliefs. But you show God's kind of love by witnessing to people who are opposed or different than you. When you love your enemies and pray for them that persecute you, they are recipients of God's love. When you turn the other cheek and return good for evil, they know you are different. When they ask why, you have an ample opportunity to share with them the love of God that has made such a marvelous difference in your life.