

The One Thing

Developing Your Testimony – Making the Gospel Personal

Chapel City Church – January 21, 2024



What is a testimony?

- What does testimony mean, generally speaking? What words come to mind?
 - Story, Account, Evidence, Proof
- What is the purpose of a testimony?
 - To describe what happened.
 - To give an account to those who weren't there.
 - To provide an explanation or reason for what happened or is happening.
 - To tell the story.



Christian Testimony

- What is the purpose of the Christian Testimony?
 - My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone. Psalm 71:15-16 ESV
 - Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. Psalm 66:16 ESV
 - We have nothing to give of value, but He asks for us to tell others about Him. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble Psalm 107:2 ESV
 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16 ESV
- To glorify God by telling others what he has done!



4 Phases of the Christian Life

- Where we were: Condemnation
- What God did: Justification
- What God is doing: Sanctification
- Where we are going: Glorification



Telling the Story - Condemnation

- The bad news
- What did your Savior save you from?
 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23
- Things to ask yourself
 - What kind of wretch were you?
 - What did you care about?
 - What was important to you?
 - What did you pursue?
 - What were the deep desires of your heart before you knew him?
- How did God reach out to you at that time?
 - How did God show you the truth of your fallen and helpless state?
 - What circumstances and people did he bring into your life to convince you that you needed a Savior?



Telling the Story - Justification

- Now for the good news!
- What did God accomplish through Christ to save you?
 - But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. - Romans 3:21-26
 - For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16
 - For God made Him who knew no sin, to be sin, on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Cor. 5:21
- Now we know the hero of the story!



Telling the Story - Sanctification

- What is your Savior saving you from?

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Romans 6:6-7 ESV

But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Romans 6:17-18 ESV

But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:20-24

- "The gospel is what turns idolaters into worshipers of God. It's what makes the self-righteous humble and willing to listen. The gospel gives practical courage to the fearful and discouraged, and helps the weak to live with confident perseverance. The gospel turns victims into helpers and the self-absorbed into those who love to serve." – Paul Tripp



Telling the Story - Sanctification

- Talking about our Sanctification means talking about our sin our trials and struggles.
 - Talking about our Sanctification means talking about our successes and the good fruit we have received from obedience.
 - We need to ask God for the humility to confess our failings which contrast His faithfulness.
 - We need to ask God for the gratitude to recognize and give credit to Him for our successes.
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- Example



Telling the Story - Glorification

- What has your Savior saved you to?

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23 ESV

- How does your sanctification increase your faith and hope in your future glorification?
 - Every testimony like this is a reminder of what we're headed towards. Every new freedom from sin in this life, every broken chain, points to the hope of ultimate salvation.
 - Our sanctification is a major part of the proof (testimony) to others of the reality of our eternal salvation.
 - It is the evidence that we belong to Christ now “For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” (Hebrews 12:6)



Instructions for Discussion

- The discussion questions are broken into two main groups of questions.
 - The first to get you thinking about the elements of testimony and to get you thinking about key things to include in your story.
 - The second to focus on how God's grace conquers sin.
- Leaders, don't feel the need to rush through all the questions, but try to touch on a few in each of the two sections.



Instructions for Homework

- Don't be intimidated or overwhelmed! The expectation is not that you do all of this in one week. We have many weeks to go before this class is over. This is provided to get you started on the process.
- Your testimony is a living thing that you will refine, add to, and update throughout your life.
- The questions are there to prompt your thinking. Don't feel like you have to write out answers to all of them now. Pick a few in each section that resonate. At first stick to what you are familiar with. The questions are meant as a helpful guide when you get stuck, not as busy work.
- Once you're ready to start, break it down into bite-size pieces. We've provided 3 different types of testimonies you can develop. Pick one to start with.
- Don't keep it to yourself! The purpose is to share your testimony with others!

