

Discipleship 4 - Testify

Mission: 3D Christianity is simply the discipleship process of Jesus Worship Center. It consists of (12) weeks of training by (12) qualified Christian leaders. Just as it is impossible to describe any object without the use of three dimensions, the New Testament mandate to make disciples requires training in at least these three "D's":

- 1) **D**iscipleship
- 2) **D**octrine
- 3) **D**isciplines

Goal: The purpose of these four classes is to condition the Christian into a **lifetime lifestyle** of imitating the life of Jesus Christ.

Introduction

When God saves one person - that person becomes a link to reach another. In other words, we are saved to save others; we've been healed to heal others; we've been delivered to deliver others.

1. The Scripture commands us to be _____ to give our testimony.

tes•ti•fy (tēs'tə-fi') v.--*intr.*

1. To make a declaration of truth or fact under oath; submit testimony
2. To express or declare a strong belief, especially to make a _____ of _____.
3. To make a statement based on _____ knowledge in support of an asserted fact; bear _____:
[Middle English *testifiēn*, from Latin *testificārī* : *testis*, **witness**; see **trei-** below + *-ficārī*, -fy.]

1 Pet 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready _____ to give an *answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

*627. *apologia*, ap-ol-og-ee'-ah; from the same as G626; a plea ("apology")--answer (for self), clearing of self, _____.

a•pol•o•gy (ə-pŏl'ə-jē) *n.*

2. **a.** A formal justification or defense. **b.** An explanation or excuse:
[Latin *apologia*, from Greek : *apo-*, apo- + **logos**, speech; see **leg-** below.]

2. The Holy Ghost _____ each of us to be His witness.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

3. Sharing your testimony with others requires a willingness to “_____”.

The Greek word for *witness* in Acts 1:8 is “*martus*” which literally means “martyr”.

mar•tyr (m%tər) *n.*

1. One who chooses to suffer death rather than renounce religious principles.

- a. Sharing your testimony is required to _____ in your personal life.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

4. Your testimony is simply a re-telling of how you came to faith. It's the story of your _____.

5. You can only _____ what you are convinced of.

Being convinced requires you to have a clear understanding of why you believe what you believe.

Your defense of the Gospel must not consist of “well, it's what my religion teaches”.

- a. Being convinced means that you are fully _____.

Rom 14:5 . . . Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

per•suade (pər-swād') *tr.v.*

To induce to undertake a course of action or embrace a point of view by means of argument, _____, or entreaty:

6. The Apostles felt _____ to share what they knew.

a. In Acts 4 a man is healed in the name of Jesus Christ.

NIV Acts 4:16 "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it.

Acts 4:17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

Stopping the testimony stops the influence and power of the Gospel.

Acts 4:18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.

Acts 4:20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have SEEN and HEARD."

A testimony requires that you have seen and/or heard something. The Apostles had "seen" and "heard" too much to keep silent.

After we are born again . . . we, like the Apostles, have seen and heard too much to remain silent!

Bro. Tenney said, "We ought to be on the _____, not the judge's bench."

b. Below is the account of Paul when he addresses a mob in Jerusalem that wants to kill him for his testimony:

Acts 22:12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there,

Acts 22:13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.

Acts 22:14 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

Acts 22:15 For thou shalt be HIS WITNESS unto all men of what thou hast SEEN and HEARD.

7. It's a simple principle our pastor has taught us . . . "You have to _____ it to _____ it."

NIV Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

8. The most powerful _____ in the world is your _____.

Paul was undeniably the most prolific and educated writer of the New Testament. Yet, each time he had the opportunity to speak before a person of influence he would not resort to his education but rather to his personal _____ with Jesus Christ.

a. The best witness is an _____.

NIV Luke 1:1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,

Luke 1:2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

Luke 1:3 Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,

Luke 1:4 so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

We must know the _____ the things we've been taught.

9. To _____ Him to others is the same as being _____ of Him.

NLT Luke 12:8 "I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me PUBLICLY here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God's angels.

9 But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God's angels.

NLT Luke 9:26 If anyone is ashamed of me AND my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.

- This business of testifying to others or sharing our faith is not something new - it was how Christ first enlisted His disciples and it was His command to those same men.

Mat 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you _____ of men.

If you're going to fish . . . you need _____. The bait is designed to lure the fish. Learn to "lure" people into a conversation about God. If they are hungry, they will "bite".

10. As a born again believer, we must be prepared to engage people . . .

- a. Who may _____ you.

There will be people who will not want to hear what you have to say. There really is no reason to make an enemy out of someone over the Gospel. We encourage you to look for people who are in the “4H Club” - people who are hurting, hungry, humble, and honest.

For those who would say, “I don’t believe in arguing or debating about the Scriptures” . . . we would direct you to Paul’s activities in Acts:

NIV Acts 9:29 He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him.

Acts 17:16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

Acts 17:17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

- b. Who are _____

Share with them your firsthand experience with God and the church.

- c. Who have been _____ by the church.

Bro. Tenney said, “Truth only hurts if it is supposed to. Truth hurts but _____ kills.”

- The church is filled with people - just people - not good people, not holy people, not righteous people - just people . . . and people fail, people backslide, people become bitter, etc. But Jesus is faithful and true. God chose the method of gathering people together to hear the gospel preached.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him . . .

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.