

This Is Us
Sharing Your Faith
Philemon verse 4-6

“I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, SO THAT you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”

Explain why Paul wrote this letter to Philemon.

So far in the series called “This Is Us” we have talked about our core values. I appreciate Pastor Jonnie and his messages the last two weeks focusing in on “loving people” and “discipleship.” Today I want to focus in on evangelism, and sharing your faith.

So the question I want you to ask yourself personally today is this, **if we know that sharing our faith is important then why don’t we do it more often?** Let me give you the top three reasons:

- 1) We are too busy.**
- 2) We don’t want to be that weird person.** We don’t want to force our beliefs on to other people.
- 3) I think the biggest reason we don’t share our faith is because we feel like we don’t know enough about our faith.** I think that’s fair. Look what Paul is saying in verse 6, **“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.”**

Look at it like this, we share our faith first because we have been changed. Secondly we share our faith because God has given us a “love for people” (To the loving people banner). And as you are sharing your

faith, Christ is giving you a full understanding of every good thing we have in him.

But because we feel we don't know enough about our faith we become introverted and no one is impacted by our faith and the result is we do not come to a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ and our adventure with Christ is focused on survival rather than thriving.

So this morning I'm going to give you four ways you can share your faith. If you're taking notes and this is a very good Sunday to take notes, write this down.

1) **You can be loving but direct.** In Acts chapter 2, The apostle Paul said to the people you need to repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus. That is direct but loving. He didn't say "hey guys maybe you need to explore your spiritual options more" or, "you filthy animals you're hopeless." He was direct and he said it with love and the results were people came to Christ.

There will be times when the Holy Spirit will lead you to be direct like that. Don't do it all the time, that's called being a jerk!

2) The second way to share your faith is, **you can share your story.**

In John chapter 9, Jesus healed the blind man and all the Pharisees began to question who Jesus is and called him a sinner because it was on the Sabbath day that he healed this guy. So they call this formerly blind man to a meeting and question him for hours and finally the man that Jesus healed said, "**whether he is a sinner or not I do not know, one thing I do know. I was blind but now I see.**" Don't focus so much on what you don't know focus on what you do know and that is, once I was blind but now I see. I used to be hurting but because of Jesus I now have peace. All I know is that used to be a sinner but Jesus saved me. All I know is, I used to think I had no worth but Jesus showed me that I am a son of God. Let me say this again. No one has ever been won to Christ by theology. The

people that you know want to know that Christ is real and that he is tangible, and that my friends comes through you telling your story.

3) The third way you can share your faith is **invite people to church**. In John chapter 4 Jesus interacts with a Samaritan woman at the well and Jesus, through conversation with her said, you have had five husbands and the one you are with now is not your husband. Jesus said the water I have to offer will cause you never to thirst again.

The lady was so amazed she went into the village and told people, “come and see a man who told me everything I ever did.” That is exactly what we can do. Just come with me and give it a shot! Come and see what has change my life. We give you invitation cards to make it as easy as we can for you to invite people to church. Someone told me a few weeks ago that they take the invitation cards and tape them to their locker before their shift and by the end of the shift they’re always gone. Get creative! Don’t make it weird or forced but rather make it a part of your everyday conversation.

4) The last way you can share your faith is, you can **live a life others will want**.

Paul and Silas was thrown in jail for healing a lady. The Bible says that at midnight Paul and Silas was having a worship service instead of sleeping or fretting over what was going to happen to them. The jailer could not believe what he was listening to and witnessing. Then there was an earthquake that literally shook the prison door open and the jailer had thought everyone had escaped and he was about to kill himself. Paul spoke up and said “don’t kill yourself we are all here.” The jailer looked it Paul and Silas and said, “I want what you have, what must I do to be saved?” Maybe that night the jailer was bored and was just trying to stay awake but through Paul and Silas is example, the jailer was drawn to the hope they had.

Example: years ago when I worked for Delta Airlines I was sitting in the bin of an airplane with another coworker. We were waiting for luggage

and not saying much of anything. My coworker broke the silence by asking me a question. The question was, I have been watching you and I want to know what is different about you? I shared my testimony with him and even though he did not come to Christ he got to hear the story of hope and redemption. I encourage you to live your life in such a way that people will be forced to ask the question, what is so different about you? I know you just found out you have cancer, why do you look at peace? You just lost your job why are you not freaking out? Live your life in such a way that it begs the question, what is so different about you?

This is what happens when you are actively sharing your faith. You play a part in a divine story. You could be the person who plants the seed or waters the seed or harvests the seed but you get to play a part. When you share your faith, your faith grows. When you share your faith you are reminded of what you have in Christ.