

Southern Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

“Practical Witnessing”

May 8, 2024

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13:34-35).”

Witness – “Any person having knowledge of truth willing to testify to that truth.”¹

Three Steps to Practical Witnessing

1. Lifestyle Witnessing (Ephesians 4:1-3)

The best testimony you give is through offering your authentic life for others to see. Live like you know others are watching you. When your actions reflect the love, compassion, and grace of Jesus Christ it is very attractive. Treat others with kindness, show empathy, and strive to live a life that aligns with the teachings of Jesus. People are often drawn to faith through witnessing its positive impact on the lives of believers.

2. Build Authentic Relationships (Proverbs 18:24; 1 Samuel 18:1-3)

Make the effort and take the time to build real meaningful relationships with those in your circle of influence. Learn to listen to their hearts as they share their stories. Demonstrate empathy for their struggles, while avoiding judging them. Become a source of support and encouragement. By developing trust and rapport, you create a safe space for conversations about faith to naturally emerge. Genuinely express interest in their lives and be willing to share your own experiences with faith when appropriate.

3. Share Your Own Story (John 9:13-15; 24-27; 30-34)

There is no more powerful tool in your arsenal than effectively sharing your own testimony. It is appropriate to share how you came to faith. You may include the hurdles you have had to overcome and areas that are still challenges. Transparency about your walk with Christ will make you relatable. Often, people see us as “Holier than thou”

¹ Faithlife, LLC. 2024. “A Witness.” Logos Bible Study. Computer software. *Logos Bible Study Factbook*. Bellingham, WA: Faithlife, LLC.

types. Sharing your own authentic story helps others to see the transformation of the Holy Spirit in you.

Notes

Applications:

1. Describe in the space below what others witness when they watch your actions and behavior towards others? _____

2. List in the space below if there is anything in your life that would prevent anyone from seeing the love of Jesus Christ? _____

3. List three people that you are led to share your faith with as a witness and when you plan to start with them:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
4. What will you do to build better relationships with those people listed above?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
5. What have you gathered from this study to do concerning witnessing?

