

Sharing Christ Series: Introduction
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“If the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes someone’s life...I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.”

Ezekiel 33:6

The church is the watchman who warns the world that sin has separated all from God but repentance and faith in Jesus brings forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

How is the church doing as a watchman?

The number of people who are active Christians or are interested in church is plummeting. Half of churches in the US have not had one conversion in the last year.

However, we do not need to blow any trumpets. Instead, the model we will follow at DH is a very passive one – a quiet one everyone can use.

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”

“Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who ask you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this will gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15

“God...through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are perishing.”

2 Corinthians 2:14-15

So, it is how we smell that gives us success or failure.

*“We have churches everywhere, but they **smell** musty, fussy, clubby, judgmental, mean, punishing ungenerous.”*

Halter and Smay; Tangible Kingdom.

A growing percentage of people have a terrible view of church. 80% of non-Christians think the church is judgmental, hates gay people, and are hypocritical. In too many cases, this is true. In other words, the church usually stinks terribly.

Because the church has such a horrible reputation, it is up to us as individuals to give non-believers a model of love and grace and hope in the storm. We need to represent Jesus so well that people see what true Christianity is truly about, and they re-evaluate faith. We need to be the aroma of Christ.

“Non- Christians first need to detect the reality of genuine Christian experience in our lives. Then they will be attracted by their words about Jesus Christ.”

How to Give Your Life Away

So then, representing Jesus well is very difficult and very easy. Easy because we do not have to aggressively pursue others through pressure or uncomfortable conversation. Difficult because we have to work on ourselves in order to smell like the aroma of Jesus,

HOMEWORK:

The first thing we do in this process is to pray. Pick 3-5 people (or however many you want) who are in your life but are not believers. Write their names down and regularly pray for them that may come to Christ.

SAMPLE PRAYER

“Dear God, work powerfully in _____’s life that he/she may come to faith in Jesus. Move in his/her circumstances so that he/she will warm to you. Bring a Christian into his/her life who will give a positive witness. Open up a door so I can represent you well to this individual. And give me patience as I wait. In Jesus’ name, Amen