

CHAPTER 5 GIVING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

I. THREE REASONS FOR GIVING PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

- *First*, when you use your testimony your audience cannot disagree with you.
- *Second*, in your testimony you can subtly say things that would be offensive if stated propositionally.
- *Third*, a testimony is designed to whet one's appetite for more.

II. THE OUTLINE OF YOUR TESTIMONY

- A. What you were like before you became a Christian
- B. What happened the day you received Christ (What made the difference?)
- C. How Christ change your life

III. BASIC ISSUES IN EVERY TESTIMONY

- A. You discovered that you were a sinner
- B. Christ died for your sin
- C. You are certain of your belief--you know that you are saved--you have no doubt

IV. SIX FACTS MY TESTIMONY WAS DESIGNED TO COMMUNICATE

What your testimony should subtly communicate

- A. Religion doesn't save
- B. Most people have no purpose—use yourself as the example
- C. At a point in time you passed from death to life
- D. Christ died--you put faith in that
- E. Things are different now
- F. You are sure that you are going to heaven

V. ISSUES TO AVOID WHEN GIVING YOUR TESTIMONY

- A. *Don't get too complicated.*
- B. *Stick to the point.*
- C. *Don't ask questions.*
- D. *Avoid denominational name-calling.*
- E. *Your first sentence is crucial.*
- F. *Don't glory in former depravity.*

NOTE: Remember, when you share your own personal experience, that you have a captive audience who will not argue (for they cannot refute your experience). You can say things here that would be offensive if stated propositionally The point of your testimony is not to communicate everything you know about the Bible, but to create an interest and incite a curiosity that make men want to know more about the faith.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Review your memory verses with your evangelism partner.
2. Your memory assignment for this week: Ezekiel 18:4 and Romans 6:23.
3. Write out your personal testimony. Do it carefully and prayerfully. Try to complete it on one side of a sheet of paper. Try to condense it into a three-minute presentation. Say it aloud (without looking at the paper) to your partner.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. As you listen to the testimony of your partner, evaluate it:
 - a. Was I drawn by what he said?
 - b. Was his delivery winsome?
 - c. Did he offend me?
 - d. Did I understand what he said?
 - e. If he were a stranger to me, would I want him to tell me more?
2. Evaluate your own thoughts as you give your testimony. Are you saying what you really want to communicate?