

SHARING CHRIST AT WORK

"Three things we never discuss at work are politics, sex, or religion." "Everyone I work with has their own church and are happy where they are. Why should I talk to them about religion or church? That's their own business." Do such thoughts free us from sharing Christ at work?

Christ said, "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16) He also said, "Preach the good news to ALL creation." (Mark 16:15b)

Christ has called each one of us to be witnesses, to proclaim the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ in our everyday life. Yes, that includes AT WORK. Our goal is to share Jesus Christ with others in word and deed, in action and attitude, so that they may be brought to saving faith by the Holy Spirit and strengthened in that faith.

Sharing Christ at 35,000 Feet

Dave is a member of a flight crew that transports both people and cargo. Once the flight is underway, he is able to join the passengers and sit with them during the flight. This way he meets and talks with many different people. Dave always takes evangelism tracts and Bible studies along with him to read and study during the flights. He does this to increase his own spiritual knowledge as well as lend him the opportunity to share Christ with others.

Often during his reading he is interrupted by the passengers curious about what he is reading so intently. "Oh, just something I brought along to read during the flight. I don't know if you would really be interested or not." The person asking the question usually has his curiosity aroused even more and will ask if he may look at what Dave is reading. Often the person takes the tract or Bible study and begins reading it. Later in the flight Dave will talk to them about what they have read, making use of that opportunity to share Christ with that person.

Many times fellow crewmembers have even approached Dave and asked for copies of what he is reading. These have led to in-depth discussions after the flight is over. Some have even asked to come to church with Dave.

Notice Dave's approach. It is not offensive. No one has condemned Dave as a person who is "always talking religion." The people themselves took the initiative. They approached

Dave. They asked him what he was reading. It was his interest in what he was reading and studying that aroused their interest. Once the opportunity is presented, then Dave shared Christ with them at their request.

Providing the opportunity, making the setting and context such that people will be interested in the message, is the key for sharing Christ at work. This can be done in an airport as well as on an airplane. This can even be done in a lunchroom or cafeteria or while taking a break with some fellow employees. Your pastor has many little tracts and Bible studies that you could use to share Christ in this way at work.

Sharing Christ "Where America Shops"

A Christian's attitude toward his or her job, life, the world, the government, etc. can also provide opportunities for sharing Christ at work. Gloria is the head of the auditing department of a Sears store. She has a wonderful attitude toward her job and her life in Christ that is evidenced in her smile and cheerfulness regardless of what may be happening to her or around her.

"Gloria, how can you be so cheerful on a Monday morning?" "I just feel so refreshed and ready to tackle the world after listening to our pastor's sermon yesterday." "What was his sermon about?" There is the opportunity. The other person took the initiative again. Gloria could now easily make the transition into sharing Christ with that person at THAT PERSON'S request.

Or quite recently someone approached Gloria and asked, "I hear your husband is undergoing surgery. You don't seem worried and frantic." "I am concerned, but not worried. I have placed the matter in Christ's hands." Again an opportunity to share Christ was presented because of Gloria's attitude toward her life and the cares of this world. Such encounters and opportunities have led Gloria not only to share Christ with others, but also to invite others to come to church with her. Many of these invitations have been accepted and those people are still attending. Notice again, the initiative is taken by the other person. Gloria's attitude was used by the Holy Spirit for the opportunity to share Christ with others.

Communicating Christ in A Communications Department

Esther works in a classified Communications department of the United States Navy. Since she is older than most of her fellow employees, she is often sought out for her opinion or advice by the younger employees. Esther is always accessible and a good listener. When she is asked what she would do if she were in that situation, the opportunity is provided for her to give Christian advice. This in turn often leads her to share Christ and what he can mean in a person's life.

Whenever Esther knows that a person has suffered the loss of a loved one or some setback in life, she offers the comfort of Christ and his love. Often she tells the person, "I will remember you in my prayers, asking Christ to ___" Sometimes when the person is unchurched and the situation warrants it, she will offer the services of her pastor for

counseling, etc.

Again it is Esther that is sought out. Others take the initiative; they approach her for advice and counsel. She has the respect and confidence of her fellow employees. Her faithfulness in her work and her faith in Christ are all visible and apparent to those around her. Sharing Christ with others where you work does not have to be offensive or obtrusive. In fact, it can become very natural. The people you work with will learn to know and appreciate you and your faith. It is a matter of action, attitude, and speech - letting "your light shine before men."

It is true that not everyone wants to hear about Christ, especially at work. Yet your life, your actions and attitudes, may provide the opportunity the Holy Spirit will use to bring someone to saving faith. Watch for the opportunities. Share Christ as you have been taught to know him. The opportunity may present itself anywhere - in a parking lot, in a lavatory, in a lunch room, at 35,000 feet, where America shops, or in a communications department.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).

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