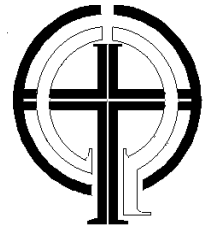


Proclaiming Christ in Every Way

Week 4 Discussion Questions: Conversion



“But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.” (Psalm 22:3)

1. Have you ever tried to share your faith in Christ with a skeptic? If not, imagine trying to tell another about why Jesus is important to you. What is your responsibility in that conversation? Do you feel obliged to convince the other person about the truth of the Gospels? Do you have to convince her that the Matthew is historically accurate? Are you responsible for personally answering any objections that the person might have? More importantly, do you view this time of sharing as a chore or as something to be done with joy?
2. Read John 4:39-42. How did the Samaritan woman share her experience of Jesus? Did she do so with reluctance? What drove her to share? Have you experienced excitement about your faith in Christ? Can you think of a time when you were so overwhelmed with what Christ has done for you that you wanted to tell others? If so, why has that excitement faded for you? How might you get it back?
3. In John 4:39-42, the other Samaritans come to understand Jesus on their own terms. They say, **“We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”** How does this affect your view of your responsibility when sharing Christ?
4. In his sermon, Aaron noted that evangelism is less like you and I creating faith in a person and more like you and I becoming a place in which people first take note of Jesus. What does that mean to you? Do you think that some Christians try to create faith in others by arguing for the faith? How do we become a place where people first take note of Jesus in our personal lives? How do we, as Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, become a place where people first take note of Jesus?
5. There is nothing wrong with contending for the faith. In fact, we are encouraged to do so. (Jude 3) Paul regularly went to places where non-Christians visited to argue for the truth of Christianity with those non-Christians. (Acts 17:2-3) Is it our job to proclaim our faith first or is it our job to live lives of faith and then proclaim that faith at appropriate times?
6. The most powerful witness to Christ is our own lives. St. Francis of Assisi said, “Preach Christ at all times. If necessary use words.” What does that mean to you? What can you do in your personal life to become a more faithful witness to Jesus in your actions alone? Does there come a point at which, in order to be faithful to the Gospel, we must use words to preach Christ?

7. In Medieval Europe, cloistered monks and nuns sometimes separated themselves from the community at large to live lives dedicated fully to God. What are the positives about living in separate communities dedicated to Christ? What are the negatives? Is that the best way to reach other people about Christ? In what ways is your life like those of the monks and nuns? Have you separated yourself from the world? Are you witnessing to the world in what you do? Are you interacting with the world looking for opportunities to share the Good News? Is Heights Cumberland a community that separates itself from the world or does it reach out? What can you do to help Heights reach out more?
8. Is the moment of conversion the end? Once a person confesses Christ what comes next? Can you think of any examples of people who confessed Christ but then fell away? Are we responsible for helping people keep Christ? Aaron said that the goal of sharing Jesus Christ isn't people believing in Him, its people living in Him *because* they now believe in Him. What does that mean? How does that play out in your life? Do you see how conversion is a process and not simply a one-time event?
9. Does the church have a role in this? What role does worship play for the believer? What should the church be if it is to be effective in helping people grow to better recognize their need for Jesus Christ? Pastor Aaron said that this congregation itself must be the kind of place where people are both introduced to Jesus *and grown in Jesus*. If you are a mature Christian what is your role to help less mature Christians? Should you participate in Christian education at church to help mentor less mature Christians in their walk? Should you intentionally greet visitors and others you don't know to make them feel more at home? Do you do these things? What more might you do?
10. This week we conclude our focus on evangelism; what we believe about it and how we engage in it in as a community of believers. Has your thinking changed as we have explored this topic over the past few weeks? Are you content with your current attitudes and actions in the area of evangelism or do you need to think or do something differently? What specifically will you do differently in the days and weeks that follow? How we can as a community help each other reach our fullest potential as witnesses of Christ and his work among us?

Last Thing: Leaders, Take a minute a write down some of your group's unanswered questions from your discussion or comments about sharing faith in general. Email them to this address (hcppcomments@ymail.com) or drop them by the Information Desk on Sunday. We will incorporate them into our *Proclaiming Christ in Every Way* series.

Thanks! The Adult Discipleship Team

You can listen to the sermon series and print the discussion guides off our website at <http://www.heightscpc.org/sermon.html>.