

“Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life” Series
If You Believe It, Then Share It!
1 Peter 3:15-16

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Text Introduction: We have been examining the truth of Jesus’ claim that He is the “way, the truth, and the life.” As Christians, we believe that this claim is true. We said last week that if we believe that truth, then we must live like it. Today, we conclude this series by adding to “live it” that we must “share it.” But, more than just share the truth about Jesus, the Bible gives us very clear guidelines on how to share the truth about Jesus.

Text: ¹⁵ but set apart the Messiah as Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. ¹⁶ However, do this with gentleness and respect, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are accused, those who denounce your Christian life will be put to shame.

Introduction: Randy Kilgore is the vice president of Marketplace Network, an association of people interested in the integration of faith and work. He writes a weekly on-line devotional for people in the workplace called *Marketplace Moments*. Randy Kilgore surveyed non-believers, asking, “What are the five things you want from co-workers who claim to be Christians?” Among the most mentioned items were: They agreed on wishing Christian co-workers knew more about their own faith, were more compassionate, hopeful, honorable, and easy to talk to in hard times.

This little piece begs the question: What do our non-Christian friends wish about us? Our text points to how we ought to share the truth.

We must be prepared to give a Clear Explanation of the Gospel.

“always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you”

Paul’s Example:

- Acts 17:17—“So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with those who worshiped God, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.”
- Acts 18:4—“He reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and tried to persuade both Jews and Greeks.”
- Acts 18:19—“But he himself entered the synagogue and engaged in discussion with the Jews.”

Practical Advice:

Don’t attempt to persuade with pat answers.

Often, I will hear people say, “I just wish I knew more.” Or, “I’m afraid I can’t answer all their questions.” There are questions we will never answer, but this text points out that we need to find some answers. We ought to be in God’s Word every day. Just by committing yourself to read God’s Word

every day, you will be preparing yourself to answer questions. Then, of course, there is more that we must do to be prepared.

We must use Credible Methods in sharing the good news about Jesus.

“However, do this with gentleness and respect”

Paul’s Example:

- Ephesians 4:25—“Speak the truth in love”
- 1 Corinthians 9:20-23—“... I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.”

Practical Advice:

Don’t cut someone’s nose off, and then give him a rose smell.

The idea here is that we can’t be mean and degrading and then expect someone to hear us. I once knew a man who bragged to me about a witnessing encounter, “You will believe one second after you are burning in Hell.” He might have been theologically correct, but his approach was all wrong. Jude 22 tells us to “Have mercy on some who doubt.”

We must validate our witness with Consistent Actions.

“Keeping your conscience clear”

Paul’s Example:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27—“... but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”

Practical Advice:

Your walk better match your talk.

Just as we said last week, if you believe that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, we ought to live like we believe that.

There is somebody who is watching you in your office, at your school, or even in your home. You think that you are having no effect, but you are.

We live in a world that is going to keep asking questions. Thank God for every question and be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.