

Understanding Four C's for Evangelism

As we go through the New Testament, we see that Christ and the disciples used many different approaches to share with others. Four of the key ways that the Gospel was shared in the New Testament were:

Confrontation
Clarification
Compassion
Creation

In order to share the Gospel effectively in our Samaria, it is helpful to understand these four approaches. That makes it possible for us to know what way may be the most effective way to share the Gospel with each individual of another culture. That will help us to build bridges to other cultures rather than barricades.

Confrontation was used in the New Testament in some cases

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'

Clarification was used in the New Testament in some cases

Acts 17:11-12

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.

Compassion was used in the New Testament in some cases

John 4:7

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give Me a drink.'

Creation was used in the New Testament in some cases

Acts 17:23-24

...for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 'God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.'

Knowing what approach to use

Use Confrontation
with church attendees who are depending on their own efforts

Use Clarification
with people who are interested but have never understood the
meaning of repentance and faith

Use Compassion
with people who feel they are “too bad” to be accepted by God

Use Creation
with people who have no background of the Bible

A. Confrontation

These individuals are church attendees who are depending on their own efforts

Using confrontation to share the Gospel

Illustrated with Nicodemus - John 3:1-21
(he had depended on religious involvement)

Confront with Scripture - John 3:14-15

Confront with love - John 3:16-17

Confront by pointing out choices and consequences - John 3:16-21

Illustrated by the rich young ruler -
Mark 10:17-22; Matthew 19:16-26; Luke 18:18-27

Confront with Scripture - Luke 18:19-20

Confront with love - Mark 10:21; Luke 18:21

Confront by pointing out choices and consequences - Luke 18:22-23

Confrontation

- necessary when we are talking to church attendees who are depending on their religious involvement or their own good works
- used by Christ primarily with religious leaders like the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees
- used by Christ with those who were depending on their own efforts to be right with God by trying to keep the law

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B. Clarification

These are interested church attendees who have never understood the meaning of repentance and faith - Acts 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

Using clarification to share the Gospel

Illustrated by Philip in Acts 8:26-40

Listen to find out what the person understands - Acts 8:30-31
Be available to explain what is not clear - Acts 8:31
Use the Scripture - Acts 8:32-33
Listen to see what the person does not understand - Acts 8:34
Focus on Christ and what He has done - Acts 8:35
Make certain the person clearly understands - Acts 8:36-37

Illustrated by Paul in Acts 17:11-12

Share the Word of God
Encourage people to study the Word for themselves
Take time to study the Scriptures with them
Both speak and listen

Illustrated by Aquila and Priscilla in Acts 18:24-26

They invited Apollos to their home
They explained the Gospel more clearly

Applied to our own lives

Explain the Word of God - Acts 17:11, 18:26
Encourage group Bible study - Acts 17:11
Take time to study with them - Acts 17:11, 18:26
Listen to the things they understand - Acts 8:30-31
Listen to the things they do not understand - Acts 8:34
Focus on Christ and what He has done - Acts 8:35
Use your home for personal one-to-one studies - Acts 18:26

C. Compassion

These individuals feel I am “too bad” to be accepted by God

Using compassion to share the Gospel

**Illustrated with Matthew - Matthew 9:9-13
(he had rejected the acceptable standards of culture and religion)**

Go to people where they live, work and spend their free time - Matthew 9:9-10
Accept people as they are and invite them to follow Christ - Matthew 9:9
Eat meals with those who need compassion - Matthew 9:10
Accept the friends of those with whom you come in contact - Matthew 9:10
Accept criticism from the religious - Matthew 9:11
Choose to show mercy - Matthew 9:12

**Illustrated with the Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-24
(he had lived a wild life)**

Accept the right of people to make wrong choices - Luke 15:12
Have compassion and show it - Luke 15:20
Accept people as they are - Luke 15:20
Forgive (let go) of the sins of people - Luke 15:21
Explain how Christ makes us worthy - Luke 15:21; 2 Timothy 2:21
Explain how God accepted the righteousness of Christ - Luke 15:22;
2 Corinthians 5:21
Explain how Christ accepts us as sons - Luke 15:22, 24; John 1:12
Celebrate the salvation of new Christians - Luke 15:6-7, 9-10, 23-24

**Illustrated with the Samaritan woman - John 4:1-42
(she had grown up in a different religion and culture and had lived a sinful life)**

Accept people as they are - John 4:7
Accept rejection and distrust - John 4:9-10
Develop curiosity - John 4:10
Offer everlasting life - John 4:14
Don't get sidetracked by questions about religion - John 4:19-21
Focus on the meaning of true worship - John 4:22-24
Introduce people to Christ - John 4:25-26
Use the opportunity to train those with you - John 4:31-38
Focus on reaching the extended family and community - John 4:39-42

D. Creation

These are the people who have no background of the Bible

Using creation to share the Gospel

Illustrated by the people of Athens - Acts 17:16-34

Characteristics of the people of Athens

the people were given to idol worship - Acts 17:16
the people gathered daily in the marketplace - Acts 17:17
the people had no understanding of Paul's message - Acts 17:18
the people wanted to learn about Paul's message - Acts 17:19-20
the people enjoyed empty talk - Acts 17:21
the people were very religious - Acts 17:22
the people did not know what they worshiped - Acts 17:23
the people either mocked or questioned - Acts 17:32

Paul's approach to the people of Athens

Paul met them where they spent time - Acts 17:17
Paul took time to listen to them - Acts 17:18-21
Paul observed and tried to understand their worship - Acts 17:22-23
Paul began at creation - Acts 17:24
Paul focused on the Creator - Acts 17:25-26
Paul showed that no man seeks God - Acts 17:27
Paul used illustrations from their own poets - Acts 17:28
Paul focused on the Godhead - Acts 17:29
Paul focused on the message of repentance - Acts 17:30
Paul focused on judgment for sin - Acts 17:31
Paul focused on the resurrection of Christ - Acts 17:32
Paul gave them time to think - Acts 17:32-33
Paul spent time with those who accepted his message - Acts 17:34

Applied to our own lives

We need to listen and understand their background - James 1:19-20
We may need to begin evangelistic Bible studies with Genesis 1-12
We need to focus on the death and resurrection - 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
We need to focus on repentance and faith - Acts 20:21