

# Life Notes *Sharing Your Faith with Pastor Justin*

## 1. What Sharing Your Faith Is NOT.

Sometimes we can better understand what something is by first understanding what it is NOT. My desire for this week's Life Notes is to bust some myths and misconceptions about sharing our faith. I want us to come to an understanding of why it is important to let others know who Jesus is, what He came to earth to accomplish, and how we can embrace His wonderful gift of Salvation.

### **Sharing your faith is NOT winning an argument about religion.**

Too many times we are afraid to move toward a conversation about our relationship with Christ because we are afraid that we may not have the answers to questions people might ask us. One of the best things I have found to overcome this fear is to remember I don't have to have all the answers! If people ask questions I am unable to answer, this is my response: "That's a great question. Would you mind if I took some time to research this and get back to you with an answer?" People aren't put off by our lack of knowledge but rather by our lack of genuineness.

#### **1 Peter 3:15 NIV**

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

### **Sharing your faith is NOT taking a spiritually elite posture and talking down to others.**

Sadly there are Christians out there who are condescending in their approach. They push people away from knowing and learning about Christ when they should be inviting them into a discovery of the one who loves them more than they are able to love themselves. We should include people in our faith journey as much as possible. One way of doing that is serving them where they are. Jesus modeled this all throughout His life. Look at the Samaritan woman at the well. The culture of the day said that men did not associate with women. Also, because of perceived racial impurity, Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans. But Jesus engaged this woman living in sin and promised He could give her living water so she would never thirst again! (*Read the story in John 4:7-26.*)

**Sharing Your Faith is NOT hiding from the reality of who you are and whose you are.**

#### **Galatians 2:20 NIV**

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

I love how this verse so plainly and profoundly declares who I am and who I belong to and why. I need to be reminded of this regularly because I have been forgiven of sin and have been given a new name, and it was not of my own doing. Jesus loved me before I was lovable and gave himself for me before I was worthy of being counted as valuable to anyone. I must not, I cannot, hide from the reality that I belong to Jesus. And if I belong to Him then all of my life is to be lived as a thank you for what He has done for me. When I live my life in this way then I will intersect and go against the grain of culture at times with the truth of who God is. Sharing your faith is not a church program or a memorized speech. It is a lifestyle that brings glory to the One who purchased my pardon and allows others to see His goodness, love, and mercy flowing out of my words, actions, and motives.

**Next week we will be dealing with the question: "What Is Sharing Your Faith?"**