

Salvation: A Process and Point in Time

Intro.

I met Jenny my wife my Junior year of college. She was immediately interested in me but at the time I was dating someone else who I ended up breaking up with the 2nd semester of my Junior year.

During that time and following I began to develop a friendship with my wife. She sang alto and I sang bass in the College Chamber Choir which meant I stood behind her during rehearsals every day. As a result, I got to know her initially in choir and then we spent time together with a mutual group of friends. The more time we spent together the more we got to know each other until three years later we got married.

On August 1, 1987 there was a moment in time during our wedding that I was a single man and then there was a moment in time when I was a married man. After I got married, I didn't say, "Well, I am glad that is done so that now I can move on to something else." No, now I needed to learn what it meant to live as a married man.

I want to suggest to you that coming to Christ is just like that.

1. We need to learn about Christ and who He is.
2. As a result, we learn more about who we are.
3. There comes a moment in time where we make a decision about entering into a relationship with Christ or not. If yes, we decide to trust Jesus as our rescuer from sin and at that moment we become a child of God and our status and identity change forever.

Just a side note: if you know all the info about Jesu but you have never personally said "yes" to Jesus and entered into a personal relationship with God by acknowledging your sin and your need of rescue, then you are not a child of God any more than I would be a married man if I hadn't said "I do" at my wedding.

I want us to examine the process and point in time that we call salvation because God has called us to be match makers in our friends' lives introducing them to Jesus.

We call this process peer share. Peer share is loving your spiritually lost peers enough to introduce them to Jesus.

- I. Our motivation for sharing: 2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 20
 - A. When something good happens to you, you want to share it.
When you see a great movie, you want to tell others about it.
If you make the team, you tell your friends.
 - B. God's salvation and love is called "the good news"
We must not forget how good the good news is!
 - 1) What was true of you before you became a Christian?
 - a) Enemy of God (Rom. 5:10a)
 - b) Dead in sin (Eph. 2:1-3)

c) Destination was eternal fire & torment (2 Thess. 1:8-9, Rev. 20:15)

2) What is true of you now that you are saved?

a) Child of God (1 John 3:1)

b) Sins forgiven (Col. 2:13)

c) Destination: heaven (2 Cor. 5:8)

II. The Process of Peer Share: CPR (1 Cor. 3:6)

Introduction

1) What does CPR stand for? Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

2) Eternal CPR is the process of spiritual life being breathed into your friends' lives by helping them meet Jesus.

A. Cultivate: building bridges of friendship with spiritually lost people.
"Jesus was a friend of tax collectors and sinners" Matthew 11:19

B. Planting: introducing Christ to your friends by talking about God and what He means to you (Col. 4:5-6) (Personal testimony)

There a number of ways that you can do that.

1) Ask your friends questions about God.

What are some questions you could ask to begin spiritual conversations?

What's your most important relationship?

Do you think it's possible to have a friendship with God?

Can I pray for you?

Where do you turn when you have problems?

2) Share your personal testimony

a. This is sharing your story about how you came to know Christ and how He has changed your life.

b. I would encourage you to use the same outline Paul used in sharing his testimony in Acts 22

(1) Before he knew Christ (vs 3-4)

(2) How he came to Christ (vs 6-10)

(3) How Christ changed Paul's life (vs 11-16)

3) Invite them to an outreach event or FSM

But understand this is just a step in the process. The goal is not just to get them to come to an event but for you to continue to share with them. Even after they respond we have a responsibility now to help them grow in the new relationship.

- C. Reaping: clearly presenting the good news about Jesus and challenging your friends to respond. (Acts 16:14)

Review CPR: The Three Conditions of a Lost Person's Heart

- 1) Hardened to gospel: Cultivate
- 2) Curious & Receptive: Plant
- 3) Ready to respond, but needs help: Reap

III. Sharing the gospel: reaping

A) Reaping works best when:

- 1) Your friend is ready to hear the whole gospel
- 2) You keep cultivating and planting with your friend as you share the gospel.
"Friendship Evangelism"
- 3) You live in a way that matches the truth that you share. 1 Peter 1:12

B) Sharing the Gospel

1) Two questions to ask:

- a. If you died right now, do you know for sure that you'd go to heaven?

Possible responses:

Yes. (How do you know?)

No. (Would you like to know?)

I don't think you can know for sure (1 John 5:13)

I don't believe in hell. (Luke 16:19-28)

- b. If you died right now and you stood before God and he said, "Why should I let you into heaven?", what would you say?

Good works: (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16)

You need to restate their response back to them and ask them if you are understanding them correctly.

2) The Gospel Presentation:

Write down the first reference in the front of your Bible and beside each preceding verse, write the next reference that you will turn to.

Problem: Sin separates us from God

Romans 3:10: How many are righteous?

Romans 3:23: Would you admit that you've sinned? As a result of your sin, you fall short of pleasing God.

God is a God of love, would you agree? But God is also a just God and cannot let sin go unpunished.

Illustration: God's justice and grace: judge stepping down and paying our fine.

Romans 6:23a: What have you earned as a result of your sin?
Death – both physically and spiritually

Solution: Jesus Christ death in our place

Who is Jesus? John 1:1,14

Romans 5:8: What did God do for us, even while we were still sinners?

1 Cor. 15:3-4: Why did Christ die?
Christ not only died, but He rose again from the dead, proving He has the power over death and can offer eternal life to us.

Reponse: Personally trusting in Jesus Christ by repenting and believing

Romans 10:9: What does it mean to confess “Jesus is Lord?”
Illustration of thrones of your life.

John 1:12 Our response to God is to trust in Jesus alone and ask Jesus to come into our life and take control of our life (receive Him)

Illustration: What does it mean to believe or have faith?

(More than intellectual assent, James 2:19)

- The chair
- The tightrope walker

Our motivation in life then, is to express our love to God (2 Cor. 5:14)

Ask if this makes sense to them.

Rev. 3:20: Would you like to place your trust in Jesus and enter into a relationship with Him? Are you willing to turn from your sin and trust in Jesus?

If they answer yes, you could lead them in a prayer to receive Christ.

IV. Evaluate your heart for peer share:

Rate yourself on a scale (1=not at all, 5= definitely) and answer the following questions:

A) I am burdened for my spiritually lost friends: 1 2 3 4 5

(How can I notice my spiritually lost friends more?)

B) I choose to cultivate relationships with my lost friends: 1 2 3 4 5

(How can I cultivate better relationships with them?)

C) I pray regularly for my spiritually lost friends. 1 2 3 4 5

D) I continue to look for opportunities to share Christ. 1 2 3 4 5

(How will I look for opportunities to talk about God?)

D) I have stepped out in faith and shared the gospel with my spiritually lost friends.

1 2 3 4 5

(What can I do to give me a greater boldness in sharing the gospel?)

E) I know the gospel and corresponding verses well? 1 2 3 4 5

(What will I do to know the plan of salvation better?)

Pray and ask for holy boldness to do spiritual CPR with your unsaved friends.

