

SHARE
“Sharing Clearly”

Introduction: Last week we simply made the case that believers must mobilize and share their faith and invite people to church.

- ✓ 82% of unchurched are “somewhat likely” or “very likely” to attend if invited to church.
- ✓ 38% of unchurched are U2 or U1 and just waiting to be invited to Christ

NOTE: U5, U4, U3—relationship is key. Time, patience, friendship (will address later) but will likely have to move along on the continuum slowly.

- ✓ Family, friends, neighbors are the most receptive to invitation. God has placed you there.
- ✓ Because we don’t know people’s hearts, we must SHARE BROADLY (4 soils/U1-U5)

IMPORTANT: Also crucial that when the Gospel is presented to the unchurched, it is presented with clarity!

Many issues but **FOUR CRUCIAL ISSUES FOR CLARITY**

- Belief in Heaven/Hell
- Jesus as the Son of God
- Exclusivity of Christ as the only way to salvation
- Salvation by faith in Christ alone

I. Existence of Heaven and Hell

| | Belief in Heaven | Belief in Hell |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| U5 | 13% | 20% |
| U4 | 54% | 51% |
| U3 | 83% | 70% |
| U2 | 95% | 82% |
| U1 | 100% | 94% |

A. Belief in existence does not guarantee orthodox understanding.

Various Ideas

1. Hell is a “state of mind” that lives over and over again until you get it right. (v. 4)
2. Heaven is a “state of mind” where our thoughts meld into the eternity and when we become as Gods. (v. 3)
3. “Something happens when you die.” (Believe in talking to dead).

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4. When we die, our mind does not die. It goes on forever. So Hell becomes our most negative thoughts and lasts forever. It's a circle that does not end. Heaven is like the most restful sleep ever with the most pleasant dreams.

NOTE: Few see Hell as a literal place of eternal agony. Momentary blip after September 11, 2001; Hell a place reserved for really bad people.

B. Biblical view of Eternity

1. Everyone will exist eternally either in Heaven or Hell.

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV

And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:46 NKJV

2. Everyone has only one life to determine their destiny

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Hebrews 9:27 NKJV

3. Eternal destiny is determined by whether or not a person puts their trust (belief/faith) in Christ alone to save them.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:16-19 NKJV

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." John 3:36 NKJV

4. Hell is conscious torment

And will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:42 NKJV

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire — 48 where 'Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' Mark 9:47-48 NKJV

5. Hell is eternal and irreversible

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:14-15 NKJV

6. What about Heaven?

a. Cannot fully grasp its wonder now

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJV

b. We know Heaven to be a place

— Jesus said he came from there (John 6:38)

— He went there after ascension (Luke 24:51)

— He is now seated on His throne in majesty (Hebrews 8:1)

c. Believers are already citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20) and merely sojourners on earth.

d. Jesus promised to prepare us a place there (John 14:1-3)

e. It will be a place of activity

And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. Revelation 22:3 NKJV

f. No death, pain, sickness, or sorrow

g. Future of joy

h. Place of perfect peace and ongoing worship

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." Revelation 4:11 NKJV

II. Jesus as the Son of God

Jesus is the Son of God

| | |
|----|-----|
| U5 | 7% |
| U4 | 34% |
| U3 | 54% |
| U2 | 80% |
| U1 | 84% |

Jesus is a Good Person/Teacher

| | |
|----|-----|
| U5 | 53% |
| U4 | 44% |
| U3 | 25% |
| U2 | 16% |
| U1 | 3% |

A. Many unchurched believe He is a unique figure in history.

1. Uncertain about His deity
2. Main thing is to follow His teachings
3. Really doesn't matter if He is or not

B. Why it does matter!

1. Implications of His deity are crucial
 - a. Virgin birth
 - b. Sinless life
 - c. Perfect/Atoning sacrifice
 - d. Bodily resurrection

2. If He is not-He is a fraud

C. Biblical view of Christ as Son of God

1. Three witnesses

a. Thomas

And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:28 NKJV

b. Centurion

So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" Matthew 27:54 NKJV

c. Father

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17 NKJV

2. Divine in substance

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; Colossians 2:9 NKJV

Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 1:3 NKJV

3. Eternally existent as God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-4 NKJV

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 NKJV

III. Exclusivity of Christ as the Only way to Salvation

NOTE: May be one of greatest struggles

A. Exclusive doctrine is seen as intolerant, narrow-minded, and bigoted

1. Some even think its irrational
2. Tolerance movement in US has had great impact
3. Considered as an arrogant claim

B. Our response must be grounded in truth

This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:11-12 NKJV

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 NKJV

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, 7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle — I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 NKJV

C. Our responses must be wise and kind

1. Increasingly the push-back will become more intense.
2. More pluralistic society becomes, the more this is rejected.
3. Our message may be rejected but we must share.
4. Inclusive (whosoever) Exclusive (one way)

NOTE: This statement is NOT arrogant—it is humble

- Humble about our ability to get it wrong
- Confidant in the fact of God's Word
- We didn't say it, HE DID!
- We are not free to believe what we like about the Gospel

IV. Salvation by Grace through Faith in Christ Alone

A. Unchurched and many churched still believe in a works Gospel

1. People still think they are going to Heaven because they are good people
2. Or, in danger of losing Heaven because of sin

B. Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

1. God exists—created and watching over us
2. Wants us to be good and kind, loving to each other as Bible says
3. Goal in life is to be happy and feel good about self
4. God doesn't need to be active in our life except to solve problems
5. Good people go to Heaven when they die

C. Biblical view of salvation

1. Universal human problem—sin

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 NKJV

2. Holy God cannot relate to sinful humanity

You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Habakkuk 1:13a NKJV

3. Futility of our works

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8, 9 NKJV

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:5-7 NKJV

4. God's solution

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 NKJV

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV

5. Grace by faith

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. John 1:12 NKJV

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9, 10 NKJV

Conclusion: Call to Clarity—Sharing with the Unchurched

- ✓ 82% of unchurched likely to come if invited
- ✓ Many don't share biblical orthodoxy
- ✓ Vision to develop biblically sound believers is crucial right now

IMPORTANT: Invite them: They will come

Is it even worth it? Is it a battle we can win?

— Can't depend upon our own strength

So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts. Zechariah 4:6 NKJV

— Some things have never changed

— First century world was secular, pluralistic, argumentative

— By power of the Spirit and Christ's obedience, the world was turned upside down

Sharing your faith—inviting someone to church can make a huge difference...

VIDEO