

From Strangers to Citizens

September 6, 2002

Introduction:

In Ephesians chapter 2 we have been studying through the salvation process. In Ephesians 2:1-10 Paul reminded individual Christians of 1) their past human condition, being dead in sin, 2) God's solution of bestowing grace and mercy on them, and 3) the end result of walking in good works. In Ephesians 2:11-22, Paul reminded the Ephesians as a group of: 1) their previous separation from Christ, 2) their reconciliation through Christ's work on the cross, and 3) the end result of being unified in Christ. In each of these passages, Paul is emphasizing the salvation process. The apostle is taking them through their testimony. They had a sinful past, a point of conversion and the end result of new life in Christ. We too should consider our life and be capable of developing a personal testimony to share with others what our life was like before Christ, the point of our conversion and the end result of our new life in Christ.

The Importance of a Personal Testimony:

- *What is a personal testimony?*
- *What do you think is the goal of sharing a personal testimony?*
- *Why is it important to be ready and able to give your personal testimony?*
- *How can a personal testimony benefit believers and unbelievers?*

The Content of a Personal Testimony:

- *What should be included in a personal testimony?*
- *Are there things that should not be included and if so what are they?*

What to include in your personal testimony:

1. What you were like before you came to Christ.
 - What types of things did you value?
 - What were some of your goals?
 - What was the driving force in your life?
2. When and how you come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
 - When did you come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

- How did you come to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior (events surrounding your conversion)?
1. How your life has changed since you decided to follow Christ.
 - How have your values changed?
 - What are your new goals?
 - What is the ultimate purpose of your new life now?
 - What in your life has helped you to grow in your faith?
 1. Make sure that you include verses that clearly communicate the gospel.

What to omit from your personal testimony:

1. Do not go into too much detail about your past. You may end up glorifying past sins or mistakes.
2. Do not slander friends or family members.
3. Avoid Christian clichés like "now I'm being sanctified," or "I'm redeemed."

What should you do if you feel like your testimony is boring?

1. If Christ has made a difference in your life, that is something to be excited about.
2. If you came to Christ at a young age, focus on what Christ is doing in your life and make sure to use verses of Scripture to communicate the gospel.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

- *When did you come to know Christ as your Lord and Savior?*

- *What were you like before you came to Christ?*

- *What were the circumstances surrounding your conversion? Was there something going on in your life that caused you to wonder about Jesus?*

- *How did the person that led you to Christ explain the gospel? Is there a verse you could share at this point?*

- *What difference has Jesus made in your life? How has your life changed? Is there a verse that explains or summarizes your life in Christ now?*

Write out your testimony and be ready to share!