



Collierville

First Baptist Church

Conversational Evangelism

Spring 2013: March 6 – May 1

6:00-6:50 Wednesday

Room 2152D

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Class Description

Witnessing used to involve laying out the truth and guiding a person to understand and accept it. But the awareness of basic Christian principles has changed and so have the needs of pre-believers. With a passion for people, authors David and Norman Geisler share an engaging, conversational approach to evangelism as they address:

- What makes old models of witnessing ineffective in today's culture
- Why evangelism must start with relational pre-evangelism
- How to ask questions, listen attentively and understand what someone believes
- Ways to identify the real barriers to belief in order to build a bridge to truth
- How to keep dialogue going with different personality types

Conversational Evangelism is a resource to discover how God uses everyday encounters for great things when people try to effectively be a witness through communication and compassion.

Textbook

Geisler, Norman, and David Geisler. *Conversational Evangelism: How to Listen and Speak So You Can Be Heard*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2009. (ISBN-13: 978-0736923996)

Other Texts

Hybels, Bill and Mark Mittelberg. *Becoming a Contagious Christian: Communicating Your Faith in a Style That Fits You*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.

Rainer, Thom S., and Sam S. Rainer. *Essential Church?: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2008.

Rainer, Thom S. *The Unchurched Next Door: Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to Sharing Your Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

Class Meeting	Topic—Activity	Reading
1 3/6/13	Introduction Overview Getting to Know You Evangelism & Culture	
3/13/13	Spring Break – NO MEETING	
2 3/20/13	The Need for Pre-Evangelism in a Postmodern World Introduction to Conversational Evangelism	Chapters 1-2
3/27/13	“Christ in the Passover” Lord’s Supper Service – NO MEETING	
3 4/3/13	Learning the Role of the Musician Learning the Role of the Artist	Chapters 3-4
4/10/13	Faith@Home – NO MEETING	
4 4/17/13	Learning the Role of the Archaeologist Learning the Role of the Builder	Chapters 5-6
5 4/24/13	The Art of Asking Questions of People with Different Worldviews The Art of Answering Questions While Moving Forward	Chapters 7-8
6 5/1/13	Countering Common Misconceptions that Affect Evangelism	Chapter 9 & Conclusion

Class Meeting 1 Introduction

What is Apologetics?

Giving people answers = Apologetics

1 Peter 3:15 says, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense [answer] to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." (NKJV)

Our job is to remove the obstacles...

To remove the obstacles so that we can help people take one step closer to Jesus Christ each day. (I Corinthians 3:6)

Pre-Evangelism

If evangelism is planting seeds of the Gospel, pre-evangelism is tilling the soil of their mind and heart, preparing them to at least be willing to listen to the Truth. (Mark 2:22, 4:8)

A World View Shift

"...a major cause of our current crisis consists of a world view shift from a Judeo-Christian understanding of reality to a post-Christian one." (J. P. Moreland, Love Your God with All Your Mind, p. 21)

Historical Development of Western World Views Changing Beliefs - Pluralism

