

Relational Evangelism
Part 4

5.5.24

With Pastor Mark Sterlace



Definition:

“Relational evangelism” invests in relationships with those around us – frequently in our natural spheres of influence, such as with neighbors, co-workers, classmates, friendship circles, and acquaintances. In these relationships, we pray regularly for these people, including that they will come to know Jesus. We show genuine care for them in ways that build their dignity and well-being. We also look for opportunities to discuss spiritually-related topics that help them see the greatness of Jesus and everyone’s need for Him.”



WIN #1: Win their SMILE

- *Generate a positive response to your presence.*
 - *Find common ground (Acts 17:21–23)*



They leave saying, “*I want to see him again.*”



WIN #2: Win their TRUST

– Show them that you care. (1 Thess. 2:3–8 Message)



“God tested us thoroughly to make sure we were qualified to be trusted with this Message. Be assured that when we speak to you we’re not after crowd approval—only God approval. Since we’ve been put through that battery of tests, you’re guaranteed that both we and the Message are free of error, mixed motives, or hidden agendas. We never used words to butter you up. No one knows that better than you. And God knows we never used words as a smoke screen to take advantage of you.



6-8 Even though we had some standing as Christ's apostles, we never threw our weight around or tried to come across as important, with you or anyone else. We weren't standoffish with you. We took you just as you were. We were never patronizing, never condescending, but we cared for you the way a mother cares for her children. We loved you dearly. Not content to just pass on the Message, we wanted to give you our hearts. And we did."



- *Remember them*
- *Serve them (Mark 10:45)*

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” [Context]



They leave saying, “Wow. He didn’t have to do that!”



John 13:3-6

“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. 6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, “Lord, are You washing my feet?””



WIN #3: Win their CURIOSITY

- Bring up spiritual things in a non-threatening way. (John 4:7–15)



– Tell your story (Acts 26:4–29)
[Paul shares His Testimony]



– Ask about their story (John 4:16)
[The Art of Listening]



– Ask about their story (John 4:16)
[The Art of Listening]



(Acts 17:19–20; 32)

19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? 20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.”

V32 “And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this matter.”



They leave saying,
“I’d like to talk about that some more.”



WIN #4: Win their TIME

- Secure an intentional time to talk about Christ. **(John 3:1–21)**



Vv1-2

“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”



- Inspire them to want to get together (John 3:2)
- Invite them to get together (Acts 28:30–31)
- Secure the time to meet at a “third space”
(i.e., a coffee shop or restaurant) to begin these conversations.



They leave saying, “*I plan on being there.*”



WIN #5: Win their INVOLVEMENT

- Create an engaging environment to discuss Christ.



– Have a one-on-one meeting for lunch, coffee, etc., leading to more meetings to discuss Christ.



– Spend much time with them (**1 Thess. 2:8**)

“So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”



**They leave saying, “*I never knew that Christ
& the Bible were this relevant to my life.*”**



But the Bottom line:

- They leave saying, *“I want to see him again.”*
- They leave saying, *“Wow. He didn’t have to do that!”*
- They leave saying, *“I’d like to talk about that some more.”*
- They leave saying, *“I plan on being there.”*
- They leave saying, *“I never knew that Christ and the Bible were this relevant to my life.”*

