We’re All Journalists Now

Reformation Matters, Part 4

1 John 1:1-3

Discussion Guide

Main Idea:

As Christians, it is our duty to be capable and faithful witnesses of the gospel and for Christ.

Discussion Points:

All Christians are qualified to share their testimony of salvation with others around them, yet many shy away from doing so for a number of reasons.

- What are the necessary qualifying points for people to share the gospel with others? What do you need to know to be able to share the gospel?
- Have you ever shared the gospel with other people?
- Have you ever shared your testimony with an unbeliever?
- Why do you think many Christians are hesitant to share with others the message of Christ and what he has done on their behalf?
- How would you encourage them to overcome the obstacles of sharing their faith?
- What are some biblical passages that tell Christians to share the gospel?

One recurring theme in the Bible is giving a testimony based on what someone has seen or heard.

- Why do you think the combination of seeing and hearing so often goes together?
- Can you be a faithful witness with only one of these experiences of seeing or hearing?
- Can Christians today be faithful witnesses even though they did not see Jesus in his ministry or after his resurrection? Why?

Read John 20:24-31. In this passage, Thomas shows his reluctance to believe in a resurrected Jesus without experiencing him personally and physically because hearing about someone raising from the dead always did seem unbelievable.

- Why was Thomas hesitant to believe that Jesus had raised from the dead?
- What did he say he needed in order to believe?
- Is seeing necessary for believing?
Discussion Guide cont.

Read Romans 10:9-17. Paul is outlining why it is important for people to hear the word of Christ in this passage.

- What does Paul say is necessary for a person to have faith?
- What does this teach about evangelism?

Christians need to make sure they are qualified to be faithful witnesses of the gospel for Christ. This means that they must understand the gospel, be able to explain the gospel, and show the tenderness and compassion that comes through loving others.

- Do you meet these qualifications?
- Have you ever thought about if you are obedient in using these qualifications to get the job done?
- How can you improve your witness in either your words or in the pattern you live your life?

Gospel Connection:

The gospel is of utmost importance in the life of the believer. It is the reminder of how much we are loved by God and the example we are called to follow in order to express our thankfulness to God. Being a witness of something requires someone to have experienced that thing. To be a witness of the sacrifice and glory of Christ means that we have experienced that sacrifice and glory and its ramifications in our lives. The Bible teaches that we need to be witnesses of the gospel and need to be faithful in telling others about what it means. Professing Christians need to carefully think about how the gospel has transformed their life before they are able to convey that message to others. They need to examine if they are a credible witness.

Practical Implications:

Think: Think about if you exemplify the qualifications of a credible witness of the gospel of Christ. How has the gospel changed your life? Why is it important that you share that same gospel with others around you? Consider those God has placed in your life with whom you can share this good news.

Pray: Ask God to continue strengthening you to have the willingness and boldness to share the gospel. Ask him to continue shaping your life by the gospel so that you can be a faithful witness in both words and in the way you live your life. Thank him for loving you and for bringing you joy and peace through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the life that comes through his victory over death through his resurrection.

Do: Start reading the gospel accounts in your Bible again so that you can be a witness that is faithful to the message you hear directly from the text. Look for others that you can study the gospels with so that you can encourage each other to continue sharing what you are learning with unbelievers so they can experience the grace that God gives through Christ. Also, look for people with whom you can share the gospel.