

Seven Principles of Gospel Persuasion

From 2 Corinthians 5:11-17

1. Must Reach the Conscience – ***We persuade men...and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences*** (v11).

Human effort alone cannot bring the sinner under conviction. This is a work for the Holy Spirit. However, the Spirit of God accomplishes this work through the word of God. The duty of the Christian witness is to speak the word so that the conscience of the sinner may be pricked.

2. Must Touch the Heart – ***That ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart*** (v12).

Again, superficial polish and glitter or entertainment and amusement may move the mind and occupy the feelings for a season, but the lasting effect is brought by the gospel only when it touches the heart. Those who have taken the gospel into their hearts can be truly converted.

3. Must Be Sober – ***Or whether we be sober, it is for your cause*** (v13).

The message we preach is a solemn one. It disturbs the foundations of a sinful life. It judges the folly of careless men. It condemns the carelessness of the indifferent. It is no laughing matter, and that is why it demands sobriety. Many today are not earnest in their dedication or service to God because they did not receive a sober gospel persuasion.

4. Must Proclaim the One Way – ***For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead*** (v14).

The only way to heaven is Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12; John 14:6). It has no common ground with other faiths or religions. The lost must be fully persuaded that there is no other hope.

5. Must Present a New Life – ***And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again*** (v15).

We are not to suggest that Jesus is the missing ingredient in life or the final piece to a puzzle. He is life for the dead. He is Alpha and the beginning. He does not finish the job. He is all, not part.

6. Must Give New Knowledge – ***Though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more*** (v16).

Man's reasoning, philosophy, morals, and ideals must be abandoned. One comes to God on the solid footing of scripture truth, or he does not come at all.

7. Must Result in a New Creature – ***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature*** (v17).

If there is no change, there is no convert. Old standards, desires, habits, customs, plans, and values are exchanged for the new.

One Sick of the Palsy

From Mark 2:1-12

1. This man could not get to Jesus on his own.
2. Others cared for his soul and brought him to Jesus.
3. They did not pray him in or wait for God to move him; they went and found him.
4. We see a number of people working together to bring one to Christ whom one alone could not have brought.
5. Often the crowd around Jesus is more of a hinderance than a help.
6. There were many obstacles. It took some trouble and physical effort to get him in.
7. Breaking up the roof was uncouth and probably caused some criticism.
8. It was no doubt costly.
9. Jesus put salvation before healing (Psalms 103:1-3).
10. The religious crowd wanted to argue and debate points of doctrine. They cared nothing for the man.
11. There is evident conversion. Once the bed bore the man; now the man bears the bed. Christ makes us the master of what once mastered us.
12. This was proof of Jesus' deity (Isaiah 43:10-11).