

The Five Principles of a Winning Gospel Presentation

By Doug Hamilton

How do you know if what you are really preaching and teaching the core principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Here are five principles to keep you on track for your evangelistic efforts in reaching out to lost souls.

Formation: the act or process of forming or the state of being formed

- There is an obligation of the lost to understand that there is a Creator responsible for our existence. This did not happen through random change, but divine planning.
- The Created Heaven and Earth
 - Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 - Job 38:4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding,
- The Created Animal and Plant Life
 - Genesis 1:11 Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, *and* fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them”; and it was so.
 - Genesis 1:20 Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.”
- The Created Mankind
 - Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
 - Matthew 19:4 And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,
- Basically put, the CREATION PRINCIPLE is a must to embrace in order to be a gospel presentation.
 - Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
 - Psalm 19:1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
 - Acts 17:24 “The God who made the world and all things in it...”

In sharing the plan of salvation with others, we must address the FORMATION principle.

Deformation: the act of deforming; distortion; disfigurement, change of form for the worse

- All the gospel in the world is unable to assist a lost soul if they do not understand there is a deformation problem. What is the deformation problem that all mankind faces? SIN!
- Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. ⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid

The Five Principles of a Winning Gospel Presentation

By Doug Hamilton

themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.” ¹¹ And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

- They tried to cover their nakedness, hide from God and shift the blame to others. This is because they knew how they stood with God after the fall. They had deformed their relationship with God. Adam and Eve had a horizontal relationship prior to this moment, but now it was a vertical one, for it had been deformed from that which was formed.
- The Jewish people under the Law followed the path of deforming sin. *Hosea 6:7 But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; There they have dealt treacherously against Me.*
- Paul told the Christians of Rome in *Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—* This because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). All will sin and become deformed before God. It is true that in “*Adam all die*” 1 Corinthians 15:22. What part of the ALL do we not understand?

We of the FORMATION must understand that we suffer from a DEFORMATION of sin before God.

Information: knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstance

This third gospel principle is the information that must be made available to the lost. It is not just any information that we are to seek out, but that of a specific gospel nature. What is that specific information?

Information of the prophesied Christ

- In Peter’s Sermon of Pentecost spoke of the prophesied Christ through the prophet Joel and the Psalmist David (Acts 2:15-16 and Acts 2:25-28 respectively).
- Peter preached at the portico of Solomon of the prophesied Christ from the words of Moses (Acts 3:22). He even added in Acts 3:24 “And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and *his* successors onward, also announced these days.
- Philip presented the prophesied Christ to the Eunuch through the words of Isaiah (Acts 8:32-33).

Information of the miraculous Christ

- Acts 2:22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—

The Five Principles of a Winning Gospel Presentation

By Doug Hamilton

- Acts 10:38 “*You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*”

Information of the resurrected Christ

- Peter preached in the sermon of Pentecost *Acts 2:23-24 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.*²⁴ “*But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.*”
- Acts 13:29-30 “When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb.”³⁰ “*But God raised Him from the dead;*”
- Acts 17:2-3 And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.”

Information of accountability to the Christ

- Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”
- Acts 3:26 “For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one *of you* from your wicked ways.”
- Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”
- Acts 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

When those of the FORMATION understand their DEFORMATION they must seek out the correct INFORMATION about the Christ.

Conformation: the act or process of conforming; adaptation; adjustment

In relation to conversion, the conformation process is the initial submission to the gospel message. Without a conformation to the gospel message, there could be no foundation in which to build the spiritual house upon. What were the standards set for in which to conform to?

Repentance:

- It means to “think again” and in the context it means to think again with the intention to come into agreement with God. This is not referring to a perpetual repentance that one carries the rest of their lives, but the initial repentance. That is the repentance where one initially changes their mind to align with God. Just listen to some of the great presentations of the gospel from the Book of Acts and look for the conformation standard of repentance.
- Acts 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

The Five Principles of a Winning Gospel Presentation

By Doug Hamilton

- Acts 5:31 “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Confession:

- It is the confession that Jesus is the Christ that a man or woman provides a compass as to what is in their heart. It is in the confession of a man that one is setting the precedent that he or she will not deny their Lord in the face of persecution, but will be bold about the Christ.
- Acts 5:27-29 When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.
- Acts 8:36-37 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁷ And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Baptism:

- This is the moment that a person dies to himself with the intention of living for Christ as based on the death, burial and resurrection of the Christ. Without this anchoring CONFORMATION there can be no true submission to that fact of history. This is why baptism was included in the CONFORMING process of the early documented gospel presentations from the Book of Acts.
- The three-thousand of Pentecost: Acts 2:38 Peter commanded the repentant Jews to be baptized.
- The Samaritans: Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.
- The Eunuch: Acts 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.
- Saul of Tarsus: Acts 22:16 ‘Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’
- Lydia and her household: Acts 16:14-15 “...and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and her household had been baptized...”
- The Jailer and his household: Acts 16:33 and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*.
- The Corinthians: Acts 18:8 “...and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.
- The Ephesians: Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

There was a definite initial conformation principle that could be seen in the sermons preached and responded to. Principally put, the FORMATION must understand their DEFORMATION and seek out the INFORMATION for a CONFORMATION in the name of Christ.

The Five Principles of a Winning Gospel Presentation

By Doug Hamilton

Transformation: change in form, appearance, nature, or character

- When a Christian converts to the graceful and merciful plan of Christ, there is a TRANSFORMATION process that is to take place.
 - a) It is an outward transformation:
 - Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
 - b) It is an inward transformation:
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
 - c) It is a bodily transformation:
 - Philippians 3:20-21 "...the Lord Jesus Christ;²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

There is clearly a principle of transformation that must be taught and continued in through the life of the recipient of the gospel of Christ. The FORMATION must know their DEFORMATION and seek INFORMATION to have a CONFORMATION and then life-altering TRANSFORMATION even beyond the end of this life.

FORMATION
DEFORMATION
INFORMATION
CONFORMATION
TRANSFORMATION

The Basic Five Principles of a Winning Gospel Presentation.