

# Three Keys for Sharing Christ with Others

by Jerry M. Kosberg

From the *Missional Bible Studies* series of the Center for U.S. Missions

Goal: To be aware of some key components of effective disciple-making and begin to develop our own plan for using those “keys.”

## Introduction

“No, the whole congregation shall be a holy people, a royal priesthood; each Christian should bear the welfare of his neighbor’s soul in his heart and do his part that the saving Gospel may win ever more victories, that the realm of Satan might be overthrown in the world, and that the kingdom of God may be advanced.” -- Dr. C.F.W. Walther, one of the founding pastors and the first president of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

This quote is from a sermon Dr. Walther preached on the 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity, 1842. The sermon’s title was “Bringing Souls to Christ: Every Christian’s Desire and Duty.” In it, he asked if this was just the pastor’s job. Here he answers his own question.

Discuss: The LC-MS was organized in 1847. Even before its organization, an evangelistic emphasis was evident in the thinking of the leaders. Do you think we have stayed consistent with that emphasis? If so, in what ways? If not, why not?

## I. First key: Engaging the world, not catering to it

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

What one thought describes Paul’s attitude or his goal?

List the groups of people that were Paul’s concern:

v. 20 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 20 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 21 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 22 \_\_\_\_\_

v. 22 \_\_\_\_\_

Are there comparable groups of people in our experience today? Who are they?

What did it mean for Paul to become “like a Jew” or become “weak?” Others?

Discuss: Do you see Paul’s passion to reach others at work in you? In your congregation?

## II. Second key: Sharing Jesus and Prayer

Read Colossians 4:2-6

As Paul begins this brief section on sharing Christ, what is his opening focus?

In verses 2-4 Paul writes about three important prayers for us to learn and pray

1. The first prayer: That God may \_\_\_\_\_

What is being prayed for? What is our fear if this should really happen?

2. The second prayer: That we may \_\_\_\_\_

What is being prayed for? What is our fear if this should really happen?

3. The third prayer: That I may \_\_\_\_\_

What is being prayed for?

It is exciting to see how the Holy Spirit teaches us through Paul how to pray through our fears and lean on Him to walk us forward in sharing Christ!

In verses 5-6 Paul gives us practical instructions for our sharing Christ

1. Our lives speak loudly: Be wise in the \_\_\_\_\_  
What does that mean?  
Give examples of “unwise” action toward outsiders.
2. Know when: Make the most of \_\_\_\_\_  
Note clearly what this does **not** say.
3. Telling the Good News: 3 clear instructions:  
Let your conversation be always \_\_\_\_\_  
How is that done?  
Seasoned with \_\_\_\_\_  
How is this done?  
Know how to \_\_\_\_\_  
Again, note clearly what this does **not** say.

### III. Third key: Using these truths in my life

How do I put these truths to work in my life? Here are five practical, achievable steps you can take to grow in sharing Christ with others in your life.

#### Step one: Identify an unchurched friend or relative

Who might that be? Think about someone who, as far as you know, does not have a meaningful relationship with a Christian congregation, but is someone with whom you have an open and trusting friendship or relationship. Name of person I have identified: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Step two: Pray

Pray regularly for this person and for the Holy Spirit to open a door for you to share your faith with that person. Use the insights from the Bible study above to guide your prayer life.

#### Step Three: Build up that friendship

Intentionally spend time with that person, share times of joy and seek ways to serve and encourage him/her.

#### Step Four: Share your faith

Tell him/her what Jesus has done for you, how He helps you get through tough times and gives you joy.

#### Step Five: Invite

Invite your friend/relative to an opportunity to hear the Gospel.

### Conclusion

The Apostle Paul once wrote about his ministry, “I planted, Apollos watered, God gave the growth.” (1 Cor. 3:6) Sometimes we are the seed planters, sometimes the ones who water the seed. Always, it is God who gives the growth.

Discuss: What one thing will I do this week because of this Bible study?

January 2007. Rev. Kosberg serves as Regional Mission Facilitator for the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He and his wife Jan live in Phoenix. Accompanying Leaders' Guide is available from the Center for U.S. Missions.