

VIDA NUEVA INTERNATIONAL

CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

Talk #14

Scripture Ref: Matt. 10:16, James 2:14-24

Speaker & Length Youth, 20 minutes

Progression We can best witness to our faith by our actions. We can practice our Christian action right where we are--in our own homes, families, schools, churches, and work places. It is not necessary to leave our everyday environment to practice Christian action.

Purpose This talk should acquaint all with existing Christian action and get them to know how and what they can do. The speaker can effectively illustrate this with examples from his/her own life.

The third leg (Action) is added to the stool with the Prayer and Study legs. The speaker should explain how it requires all three legs to have a balanced life. The speaker (along with the Talk Coach, if any) should decide where in the talk this should be introduced.

Introduction

We can best witness to our faith by our actions. We can bring our Christian action right where we are - in our own homes, families, schools, churches, and work places.

I. Awareness of Self - Aware of The Tools and Gifts Christ Has Given To Us

- A. I Corinthians 3:16 - "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"
- B. I Corinthians 4:16 - "Therefore, I urge you to imitate me."
- C. Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."
- D. II Peter 1:5-8

II. Uniqueness of Personality - Self-Acceptance

- A. I John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all righteousness."
- B. Ephesians 1:18 - "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints."
- C. I Corinthians 12:27 - "Now, you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."
- D. I Peter 2:5 - "You, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

III. Christ Has Accepted You. Accept the Fact of Your Acceptance.

- A. Romans 5:8 - "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- B. II Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
- C. I Corinthians 6:19b-20 - "You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body."

IV. Change Follows - Two Types

- A. Self-revolution - a fundamental change or alteration of attitudes within our selves, produced by time and effort, leading to a personal commitment to Christ.
- B. I Peter 1:13-15 - "Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;"
- C. Evolution - a gradual development or growth. Both changes should be rooted in Christ. Romans 6:4 - "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

V. This Change in Us Demands Action

Personal action is not enough. We must act or work in institutions, groups, clubs, and agencies that affect persons. Give examples. I Peter 4:10-11 - "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone services, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ..."

VI. Avenues That Exist for Christian action.

- A. Our own home.
- B. Our schools.
- C. Religious youth groups.
- D. Hospital volunteers.
- E. Nursing Homes.
- F. Scouting.
- G. Prayer Groups.
- H. Personal evangelism.
- I. Poverty, homeless, feed-the-hungry programs.
- J. Any other examples.
- K. Include: "This building is an example of Christian Action. It was built as a school house, became a junk yard and fell into disrepair. Through the actions of hundreds of volunteers, it has become the building you see, today"

Matthew 25:34-40 - (v. 40) "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

VII. Types of Work Being Done.

- A. Social action: recreation, tutoring, homework center, Big Brother/Sister, scouting, etc.
- B. Religious action: teaching younger children (e.g., VBS), seminars and retreats, concerts, personal evangelism, etc.
- D. Hospital work: aged, physically and mentally handicapped, etc.
James 1:27 - "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

VIII. Definition of a Christian leader.

- A. Christian leader...
 - 1. ...is one who:
 - a) knows the Way (faith in Jesus led by the Holy Spirit)
 - b) shows the Way (by example)
 - c) goes the Way (uses God-given talents to the best of his/her ability)
 - 2. ...uses his/her influence for good
 - 3. ...is open to change
 - 4. ...is realistic
 - 5. ...is generous
 - 6. ...is gentle by example
 - 7. ...examines and improves himself
 - 8. ...remains tied to the Christian community

IX. Conclusion: Get Where the Action Is!

Galatians 6:9-10 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Colossians 3:16-17 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

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