

BPM 2019 The Spiritual Conversation Curve: A practical tool for reluctant witnesses

Don Everts, BPM 2019

Paul encouraged all Christians to wisely discern “how to answer” each non Christian in your life (Colossians 4). But how exactly do we do that in an age where many non Christians have experienced “church hurt” and don’t show any interest in Jesus at all? Come discover the simple but revolutionary tool developed by Lutheran Hour Ministries that can help you, and your congregation, discern how to talk with the non Christians in their lives. *Don Everts (Lutheran Hour Ministries, MO)*

Col 4:4-6 Pray that I may proclaim it (the mystery of Christ) clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

1Cor 9:22b I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

Three basic postures non-Christians have towards the Gospel. Each posture calls for a unique expression for Christian witness

1. **Gain a Hearing:** Those who are unreceptive to the Gospel need someone to help them overcome general cultural distrust and their personal “church hurt” by chatting about life (which builds trust” and relating to each other’s joys and pains (which deepens connections)
2. **Give Good News:** Those who are receptive to the Gospel need someone to show Jesus to them by sharing how Jesus is at work in their own life (which affirms his relevance) and connecting Jesus to daily life (which reveals Good News)
3. **Guide Toward Faith:** Those who are genuinely seeking need someone to help guide them toward faith by exploring questions about faith (which encourages searching) and clarifying the costs and rewards of following Jesus (which prepares for faith)

