



Week 2. Witnessing Community

Christian Community

The word witnessing is derived from the biblical term *martyreō* (“witness”). In Greek, witness is a legal term meaning “to attest to the facts or to assert the truth”

‘Every genuine Christian has a story, starring Jesus, to share.’

[Sarah Summer : Dictionary of Spirituality via Logos]

- What do you think a ‘witnessing community’ may look like?
- Read Acts 3:12-19 (this appears to be Peter’s second ‘speech’ & he is growing in confidence)
- How often do you have the opportunity to speak about Jesus or in some way reveal your life of faith?
- Should we actively look for or create opportunities to speak more openly?
- When might ‘actions speak louder than words’?
- What is the motivation for sharing our faith?
- How might we do so with sensitivity and love?
(Think about context, spontaneity, testimony, prayer & authenticity).
- Read the quote opposite. What do you think of this view of what it is to witness to others?
- Close with prayer for the humility & grace to be open to conversations about faith and spirituality.

In the twenty-first-century, postmodern world, there has been a reaction against an approach that has come to be seen as simplistic (and not just simple), as monologue, not dialogue, and as a faulty rendering of the gospel that leaves out the kingdom of God and makes becoming a Christian a matter of cognitive belief rather than full-orbed discipleship (which involves not only believing but also behaving in a new way, belonging to a new community, and becoming ever more conformed to the image of Christ).

In this view, witnessing becomes a matter of an ongoing conversationposited on an understanding that all people are on spiritual pilgrimages (whether they are aware of this or not), and that those who have been involved in following the way of Jesus can be of help to those newly aware of their own pilgrimages.

[Richard V. Peace : Dictionary of Christian Spirituality via Logos]

