

Roadblocks to Evangelism

The road to successful soul winning is replete with roadblocks - things that keep us from committing to teaching lost souls. If we do not face these and overcome them we will never be successful soul winners. Here are some important ones.

1. Too Broad of a Doctrinal View

- a. Are they *really* lost? If we are not committed to what the Bible teaches about how one is saved, we will not feel as obligated to reach out to many. This may mean we do not really view God as one who would condemn one to hell, to believing those in denominations who have not done what the Bible teaches to be saved will still make it to heaven anyway.
- b. Preachers and teachers can negatively affect evangelistic efforts if they feel they need to “soft sell” the gospel so as not to offend anyone with the truth.
 - i. Paul said we must speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) but that means we must still speak the truth. We cannot accommodate sin in people’s lives just to get them baptized.

2. Too Secular or Too Busy

- a. If our lives center in secular goals (career, recreation, community involvement, social events and material possessions) then saving souls will not be that important to us. We are to “set our minds on things above, not on the things that are upon the earth” (Col 3:2).
- b. But even if we are spiritually minded people we can allow our lives to become so busy with everyday things we do not make time to teach the lost or keep our minds in an evangelistic mindset. Soul winning is on our list but down about No. 12. Life is busy but you need to decide - is teaching a soul or visiting a prospect worth missing one of my kids or grandkids 15 ballgames?

3. Too Sinful

- a. We know we are not living the righteous life God wants. It is hard to bring someone to the Lord when you are not living for him yourself. If you love the Lord, you will live for Him. And you will want others to have the same joys and blessings you have in Christ. It is hard to call someone to a life of righteousness I am not willing to live myself. Many times your best contacts are neighbors and co-workers. They will know what kind of life you are living and you will be hesitant to talk to them about the gospel for that reason.

4. Too Fearful

- a. We see in ourselves so many things we believe will keep us from being an effective soul winner. Lack of Bible knowledge, lack of training, fear of offending or losing a friend, fear they won’t like you if you teach them they are in sin, etc. You have to overcome all these things to be

an effective soul winner by putting your trust in God and His Word. It is the Word that convicts souls, not you (James 1:21 1st Peter 1:22-23; Romans 1:16). It is God that converts souls, not you (1st Cor. 3:5-7).

5. Too Lazy

- a. Success in soul winning does take training and practice. You have to care enough to train and discipline yourself to be an instrument for the Lord to use. You do not become proficient at anything without working at it. I will add just sitting in a class on evangelism will not help much either. You have to take to heart what is discussed and put them into practice. You have to spend the hours necessary to become good at recognizing and seeking prospects, engaging them in spiritual conversations, teaching them from the Word and sacrificing time and effort to reach them.

This is serious business and can bring great joy into your life and into the life of your family. There is tremendous satisfaction and encouragement in helping bring someone to the Lord. Be willing to overcome your personal roadblocks to become a soul winner.