

The Heart of Our Testimony

1 Corinthians 1:22-24

1 Corinthians 1:22-24 (NASB)

²² “For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;
²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,
²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

Testimonies that fail to mention the crucifixion lack power. However, in an attempt to be “seeker-friendly,” some believers soften the gospel so it seems more inviting. But the hard truth is, Jesus Christ *died* for our sins.

To witness effectively, we must confront unbelievers with their sin debt and explain that Jesus gave His life to pay it in full. But presenting platitudes is easier than creating a well-planned gospel presentation. For example, the following statement is truthful and pleasing to the ear: “**You are saved when you receive Jesus as Savior.**” The problem is, it falls short of making known the actual *path* to salvation. An instructive testimony should contain three follow-up points: a description of who Jesus is, an explanation of God’s only plan of salvation, and what a person must believe and do in order to receive Christ.

Certainly, one can be saved without fully grasping the role of the cross. However, new believers begin their spiritual journey much wiser if they know the source of their salvation. Ironically, we’re truly seeker-friendly when we offer a full picture of Christianity rather than a few expressions that are truthful but trite.

Think about the words you use to spread the gospel. Our society is increasingly illiterate in terms of Scripture. Those with whom you have opportunity to share may know little about Jesus—you might be the only person in their life with any real biblical knowledge. Pray and then prepare an instructive message focused on the cross. Then go out and make disciples for Christ!