

Evangelism Styles Questionnaire

Directions

Record your response to each of the thirty-six statements according to whether you think the statement applies to you:

- 3 Very much
- 2 Somewhat
- 1 Very little
- 0 Not at all

Transfer your responses to the grid at the end of the questions and total each row:

- 1 ___ In conversations I like to approach topics directly without much small talk or beating around the bush.
- 2 ___ I have a hard time getting out of bookshops or libraries without getting a pile of books that will help me better understand issues being debated in society.
- 3 ___ I often tell stories about my personal experiences in order to illustrate a point I am trying to make.
- 4 ___ I am a 'people person' who places a high value on friendship.
- 5 ___ I enjoy including or adding new people to activities I am involved in.
- 6 ___ I see needs in people's lives that others often overlook.
- 7 ___ I do not shy away from putting a person on the spot when it seems necessary.
- 8 ___ I tend to be analytical.

- 9 ___ I often identify with others by using phrases like, 'I used to think that too' or 'I once felt the way you do'.
- 10 ___ Other people have commented about my ability for developing new friendships.
- 11 ___ To be honest, even if I knew the answers, I am more comfortable having someone 'better qualified' explain Christianity to my friends.
- 12 ___ I find fulfilment in helping others, often in behind-the-scenes ways.
- 13 ___ I do not have a problem confronting my friends with the truth, even if it risks hurting the relationship.
- 14 ___ In conversations, I naturally focus on the questions that are holding up a person's spiritual progress.
- 15 ___ When I tell people of how I came to Christ, I have found that they have been interested in hearing it.
- 16 ___ I would rather delve into personal life issues than abstract theological ideas.
- 17 ___ If I knew of a high quality outreach event that my friends would enjoy, I would make a big effort to take them along.
- 18 ___ I prefer to show love through my actions than through my words.
- 19 ___ I believe that real love often means telling someone the truth, even when it hurts.
- 20 ___ I enjoy discussions and debates on difficult questions.
- 21 ___ I intentionally share my mistakes with others when it will help them relate to the solutions I have found.
- 22 ___ I prefer getting involved in discussions concerning a person's life before dealing with the details of their beliefs.

- 23 ___ I tend to watch for spiritually strategic events to which to bring people (such as Christian concerts, outreach events, guest services).
- 24 ___ When people are spiritually closed, I have found that my quiet demonstrations of Christian love sometimes make them more receptive.
- 25 ___ A motto that would fit me is, 'Make a difference or a mess, but do something'.
- 26 ___ I often get frustrated with people when they use weak arguments or poor logic.
- 27 ___ People seem interested in hearing stories about things that have happened in my life.
- 28 ___ I enjoy long talks with friends.
- 29 ___ I am always looking for a match between the needs and interests of my friends and the various events, books etc. that they would enjoy or benefit from.
- 30 ___ I feel more comfortable physically assisting a person in the name of Christ than in getting involved in religious discussion.
- 31 ___ I sometimes get into trouble for lacking gentleness and sensitivity in the way I interact with others.
- 32 ___ I like to get at the underlying reasons for opinions that people hold.
- 33 ___ I am still amazed at how God brought me to faith in him and I am motivated to tell people about it.
- 34 ___ People generally consider me to be an interactive, sensitive and caring kind of person.
- 35 ___ A highlight of my week would be to take a guest with me to an appropriate church event.
- 36 ___ I tend to be more practical and action-oriented than philosophical and idea-oriented.

NOW TRANSFER YOUR RESPONSES TO GRID BELOW:

		TOTALS
Confrontational	1___ 7___ 13___ 19___ 25___ 31___	
Intellectual	2___ 8___ 14___ 20___ 26___ 32___	
Testimonial	3___ 9___ 15___ 21___ 27___ 33___	
Interpersonal	4___ 10___ 16___ 22___ 28___ 34___	
Invitational	5___ 11___ 17___ 23___ 29___ 35___	
Serving	6___ 12___ 18___ 24___ 30___ 36___	

CONFRONTATIONAL STYLE

Biblical example: Peter in Acts 2

Theme verse: 2 Timothy 4:2

'Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.'

Traits:

- Confident
- Bold
- Direct
- Skips small talk, likes to get right to the point
- Has strong opinions and convictions

Cautions:

- Be sure to seek God's wisdom so that you will be appropriately sensitive and tactful.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to restrain your desire to come on strong in every situation.
- Avoid judging or laying guilt trips on others who approach evangelism with a different style.

Suggestions for using and developing this style:

- Ask friends for feedback on whether or not you have the right balance of boldness and gentleness. Keep in mind Paul's phrase in Ephesians 4, 'speaking the truth in love'. Both truth and love are essential.
- Prepare yourself for situations where you will stand alone (read about Peter in Acts 2 and other scripture). The non-believer you confront with the truth will sometimes feel uncomfortable. Even non-confrontational Christians who are with you will sometimes feel discomfort. That is OK. Under God's guidance, challenge people to trust and follow Christ, and he will use it.
- Practice the principle of 'Putting Others First'. It is critical that you listen and value what others say before telling them what you think they need to hear.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.

Other: _____
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INTELLECTUAL STYLE

Biblical example: Paul in Acts 17

Theme verse: 2 Corinthians 10:5

'We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.'

Traits:

- Analytical
- Logical
- Inquisitive
- Likes to debate
- More concerned with what people think than what they feel

Cautions:

- Avoid getting stuck on academic points, arguments and evidence. These are mainly to clear the way back to the central Gospel message.
- Remember that attitude is as important as information. 1 Peter 3:15 says to have 'gentleness and respect'.
- Avoid becoming argumentative.

Suggestions for using and developing this style:

- Set times aside to study and prepare. This style, more than the others, relies on preparation. Take serious action on what it says in 1 Peter 3:15: 'But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect ...'
- Avoid doing all your preparation in an academic vacuum. Get out and talk to others. Try out your arguments and answers on real people and make refinements as needed.
- Develop your relational side. Talk to people about everyday events and what is happening in their life and yours.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.

Other: _____
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TESTIMONIAL STYLE

Biblical example: The blind man in John 9

Theme verse: 1 John 1:3a

‘We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us.’

Traits:

- Clear communicator
- Good listener
- Vulnerable about personal life, its ups and downs
- Overwhelmed by the account of how God reached them
- Sees links between their own experience and that of other people’s

Cautions:

- Be careful to relate your experience to the life of your listener. This requires first hearing enough about your friend’s life to know how to relate your story to their situation.
- Do not stop with merely telling your story. Challenge them to consider how what you learned might apply to their life.
- Avoid downplaying the value of your story because it seems too ordinary. The ordinary story is the kind that relates best to ordinary people!

Suggestions for using and developing this style:

- Practice so that you will be able to tell your story without hesitation.
- Keep Christ and the Gospel message as the centrepiece of your story. This is an account of how he changed your life.
- Keep your story fresh by adding new and current illustrations from your daily walk with Christ.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.

Other: _____

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INTERPERSONAL STYLE

Biblical example: Matthew in Luke 5

Theme verse: 1 Corinthians 9:22

‘I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.’

Traits:

- Conversational
- Compassionate
- Sensitive
- Friendship-oriented
- Focuses on people and their needs

Cautions:

- Beware of valuing friendship over truth. Telling them that they are sinners in need of a saviour will test the relationship.
- Do not get so involved in the process of building friendships that you forget the ultimate goal: bringing people to know Christ as forgiver and leader.
- Do not get overwhelmed with the amount of needs your friends might have – do what you can and leave the rest to God.

Suggestions for using and developing this style:

- Be patient. This style tends to work more gradually than others. Look and pray for opportunities to turn conversations toward spiritual matters.
- Continually create and plan opportunities to interact with new people through social events, sports, etc. This will put you in a position where your style can flourish.
- Practice telling the Gospel message so that you will be prepared when the opportunity arises.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.

Other: _____

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INVITATIONAL STYLE

Biblical example: The woman at the well in John 4

Theme verse: Luke 14:23

'Then the master told his servant: 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.'

Traits:

- Hospitable and persuasive
- Enjoys meeting new people
- Committed (believes in the things in which he or she is involved)
- Sees outreach events as unique opportunities

Cautions:

- Do not let others do *all* the talking for you. Your friends and acquaintances need to hear how Christ has influenced your own life. In addition, your friends have questions you could answer concerning the implications of the Gospel in their own lives.
- Carefully and prayerfully consider which events or church services you take people to. Look for ones that are truly sensitive to spiritual seekers that will help them in their journey toward Christ.
- Do not get discouraged if people refuse your invitation. Their refusal could be an opportunity for a spiritual conversation. Also, their 'no' today may be a 'yes' tomorrow.

Suggestions for using and developing this style:

- When inviting people, try to get written details about the event into their hands (either preprinted or handwritten out). Whenever appropriate, offer to pick them up and do something together before the event.
- At events, put yourself in the place of the other person. Ask yourself if you were that person, whether the event would relate to your concerns and mindset. Reinforce those things to the person you invited.
- Offer positive and constructive feedback to the event sponsors, consisting of specific and realistic ideas on ways you think they could improve the event and make it more compelling to the people you bring.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.

Other: _____

SERVING STYLE

Biblical example: Dorcas in Acts 9

Theme verse: Matthew 5:16

'In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'

Traits:

- Patient and others-centred
- Sees needs and finds joy in meeting them
- Shows love through action more than words
- Attaches value to even menial tasks

Cautions:

- Remember that, although 'words are no substitute for actions', 'actions are no substitute for words'. In Romans 10:14, Paul says that we must tell people verbally about Christ. You can do this in many ways as you point to him as the central motivation for your acts of service.
- Do not underestimate the value of your service. It is your style that will reach those persons who are the most negative and hardened toward God. Acts of loving service are hard to resist and difficult to argue with.
- Be discerning as to how much you can do realistically, without depriving yourself or your family of needed care and attention.

Suggestions for using and developing this style:

- Find creative, non-imposing ways to communicate the spiritual motivation behind the physical acts of service you offer to others. It could be through a word, a card or an invitation in response to thanks for your service. ('Well, one thing you could do for me some time would be to come to one of our services at church.')
- Seek God daily for opportunities to serve others for eternal purposes. He will open your eyes to areas you would have missed. Be ready to follow his leadings, even if they seem a bit out of the ordinary.
- Be careful not to impose your service on others. Pray for wisdom so you will know where to invest your efforts in ways that will be strategic for the Kingdom of God.
- Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.

Other: _____