

## Evangelistic Styles – Dean Osuch

### 6 Evangelistic Styles: Confrontational, Intellectual, Testimonial, Interpersonal, Invitational, Serving.

Team up with friends who have other styles that may be better matched to the personality of the person you hope to reach.

#### **1. Confrontational Style: Biblical Example:** Peter **Theme Verse:** Acts 2

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

**Contemporary Examples:** Billy Graham

**Traits:** Confident, Bold, Direct. To the point, Skips small talk.

#### **Cautions:**

- Be sure to seek God's wisdom so you will be appropriately sensitive and tactful.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to restrain your desire to come on strong in every situation.

**Suggestions for using and developing this style:** 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.

#### **2. Intellectual Style: Biblical Example:** Paul **Theme Verse:** Acts 17

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.

**Contemporary Examples:** Lee Strobel\_/ Josh McDowell

**Traits:** Analytical, Like to debate, More concerned with what people think than what they feel. Asks questions.

#### **Cautions:**

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

**Suggestions for using and developing this style:** 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.

#### **3. Testimonial Style: Biblical Example:** Blind Man **Theme Verse:** John 9

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

**Contemporary Examples:** Joni Eareckson Tada

**Traits:** Good listener, vulnerable about personal life, its ups and downs, sees links between their own experience and that of other people's

#### **Cautions:**

- Be sure 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.
- 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 you will be able to tell your story without hesitation. Keep your story fresh. Add new and current illustrations from your daily walk with Christ.

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### **4. Interpersonal Style: Biblical Example:** Matthew **Theme Verse:** Luke 5

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

**Contemporary Example:** Max Lucado

**Traits:** Conversational, Compassionate, Focuses on people and their needs. Good personality, people person.

**Cautions:**

- 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.

### **5. Invitational Style: Biblical Example:** Woman at the well **Theme Verse:** John 4

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.”

**Contemporary Example:** Ruth Graham

**Traits:** Persuasive, Committed (believers in the things in which he or she is involved), Sees outreach events as unique opportunities. Hospitable.

**Cautions:**

- Carefully / prayerfully consider which events or church services you take people to. Look for ones that are truly sensitive to spiritual seekers / 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. When appropriate, offer to pick them up / do something together before or after event.

### **6. Serving Style: Biblical Example:** Dorcas **Theme Verse:** Act 9

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

**Contemporary Examples:** Samaritan’s Purse\_/ Mother Teresa

**Traits:** Patient, Sees needs / finds joy in meeting them, Attaches value to even menial tasks. Hands on projects. Actions speak louder than words.

**Cautions:**

- Do not underestimate the value of your service. It is your style that will reach those persons who are the most negative /hardened toward God. Acts of loving service are hard to resist / 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 ways to communicate the spiritual motivation behind your acts of service. Maybe through word, a card, or in response to gratitude given for your service.

**Application: My style is** \_\_\_\_\_

**How am I going to use my style of evangelism?** \_\_\_\_\_