



Everyone a Witness

This Means You

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THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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In Christ, for the Church and the World.
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What Is a Witness?

New Testament: μάρτυς (*martys*), μαρτυρέω (*martyreō*)

- *a witness (e.g., Lk. 24:48, Acts 1:8)*
- *a martyr, a witness for Jesus who dies because of that witness (Rev. 2:13)*
- *to witness, give testimony (Jn 3:32);*
- *to speak well of, commend, speak respect, vouch for (Lk. 4:22)*

James Swanson, Dictionary of Biblical Languages
with Semantic Domains

⁴⁵ Then [Jesus] opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ **You are witnesses of these things.**”

Luke 24:45-48



A Witness Is Not ...

A witness is not a person who

- “wins souls”
- “keeps people from going to hell”
- “saves people”
- “leads people to a decision for Christ”

In this His eternal counsel, purpose, and ordinance God has not only **prepared salvation in general, but He has also graciously considered and elected to salvation each and every individual among the elect who are to be saved through Christ**, and also ordained that in the manner just recounted He wills by His grace, gifts, and effective working to bring them to salvation and to help, further, strengthen, and preserve them to this end.

**Formula of Concord, SD,
Article XI, 23**



A Witness Is God's Instrument

God's Uses His Witnesses to Bring Salvation to the Elect

- Faith comes through the Means of Grace (cf. Romans 10:17)
- God has chosen us to bring the Means of Grace to those whom He's chosen

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The Witnessing Nexus

A nexus is a point at which the “Why?” “What?” “Where?” “When?” “Who?” and “How?” come together in your life

- Begins in Ephesians 1:3-6
- Comes to fruition in the intersection of 1 Peter **2:9** and Ephesians **2:10**





The Beginning of Your Nexus

³ Blessed be the **God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, THAT WE SHOULD BE HOLY AND BLAMELESS BEFORE HIM.** In love ⁵ **He predestined us** for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of His will,** ⁶ to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:3–6

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

How?



The Purpose of Your Nexus

⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ **But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, THAT YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE EXCELLENCIES OF HIM** who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:7-9

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

How?



The Culmination of Your Nexus

⁴ But **God, being rich in mercy**, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and **raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**, ⁷ **SO THAT IN THE COMING AGES HE MIGHT SHOW THE IMMEASURABLE RICHES OF HIS GRACE** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; **it is the gift of God**, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

Ephesians 2:4-10

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

Why?

How?



Witness



You Are a Witness: Where?



L FAMILY
OCCUPATION
N EIGHBOR
E CHURCH

He chose us in Him
before the found-
ation of the world

(Eph. 1:4) ... **we are His**
workmanship,

created in Christ
Jesus for good

works, which God
prepared before-

hand, that we
should walk in

them (Eph. 2:10).



You Are a Witness: How?

A GUIDE TO DOING ANYTHING



1. TRY



2. FAIL



3. COLLAPSE



4. SOB

you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, THAT YOU MAY PROCLAIM THE EXCELLENCIES OF HIM who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).



Relational, Contextual Evangelism

L.A.S.S.I.E

- Listen
- Ask
- Seek
- Share
- Invite
- Encourage



¹⁵ [I]n your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet **do it with gentleness and respect**, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

1 Peter 3:15-16



Be “quick to listen”

- Shows that you are interested in someone as a person (not a “conquest”)
 - Interest is not agreement
- Forms/strengthens relationships
- Provides insights into a person’s worldview
- Reveals person’s concerns, issues, fears, hopes, etc.

¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. ¹⁹ My dear brothers, take note of this: **Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,** ²⁰ for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.

James 1:18-20 (NIV)



Ask

Ask questions that will encourage discussion

- Be genuine
- Use open ended questions
- Phrase non-threatening questions
- Ask for clarifications
 - Ask about words, phrases, and concepts shared – don't assume

⁴⁶ Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ... ⁵¹ **And Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?”** And the blind man said to him, “Rabbi, let me recover my sight.”

Mark 10:46b-47, 51



Witness

Seek



Be attentive and alert as you seek ...

- ... the Holy Spirit
 - He is the active agent, rely on Him
- ... a point of contact
 - A need – felt or read – to build on
- ... an opportunity to speak
 - Use your right and authority as Christ's ambassador wisely

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, **I perceive that in every way you are very religious.** ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

Acts 17:22-23



Share what has the power to change people's hearts:

- The Faith
 - Not “my” faith, but “the” Faith
 - When helpful, use your story to share His story (it's not always helpful!)
- God's Word
 - Romans 10:17
 - Speak the Word, don't argue it
 - It's a Means of Grace
 - Let the Holy Spirit be the Holy Spirit

² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. **We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word**, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

2 Corinthians 4:2-3



Keep the conversation going

- Goal: More exposure to God's Word
 - May come through you
 - May come through others
- Context is the key
 - “As you are going” will drive what kind of invitation you extend
 - Know what options are available – and be ready to make use of them

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”
⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “**Come and see.**”

John 1:45-46



Encourage

Follow Up and Follow Through

- Openly pray for the person
- Follow through...
 - ... any invitations
 - ... all commitments
- Follow up ...
 - ... extend new invitations
 - ... issues that we're shared with you
- Use the resources available “as you go”

⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ **So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

Galatians 6:8-10



Your Nexus. Your Purpose.



We live on earth only so that we should be a help to other people. Otherwise, it would be best if God would strangle us and let us die as soon as we were baptized and had begun to believe. For this reason, however, He lets us live that we may bring other people also to faith as He has done for us ... Everything then should be directed in such a way that you recognize what God has done for you and that you, thereafter, **make it your highest priority** to proclaim this publically and call everyone to the light to which you are called.

Martin Luther