

God Made It Clear; Don't Mess It Up!
Learning to Give a Biblical Invitation

Invitation Examples

Some of these invitations are clear and accurate; others are not. Please mark each one, and then we'll discuss them.

	Clear	Unclear	Invitation
1			Will you give your heart to Christ?
2			Will you surrender your life to Christ?
3			Will you confess your sins and ask the Lord to forgive you?
4			Will you come to Christ and promise to serve Him from now on?
5			Will you come and "pray through" to Christ?
6			Right now, ask Jesus to come into your heart.
7			Will you make your commitment to Christ now?
8			Will you make Christ the Lord of your life?
9			Will you repent of your sins and be saved?
10			Just believe now and allow Jesus to touch you.
11			Are you willing to forsake all your sins to obtain salvation?
12			Will you trust the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal savior?
13			Christ died for your sins. Believe and trust in Him personally, and you will be saved.
14			You can be saved right now by believing and trusting that Christ died for your sins and rose from the grave.
15			Will you believe Jesus took your place on the cross and rose from the grave?
16			Right now, believe that Christ paid the price in full for your past, present and future sins.

Pitfalls in Evangelism and How to Avoid Them

1. Making good things into requirements for the new birth.

Many things are part of growing into maturity in God's family, but you have to be born before you can grow up. Only one thing is required for the new birth: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. It's good to encourage people to repent of their sins, for example, or to live good lives. But first things first: many people repent of their sins and try to live good lives, but they have never trusted Jesus for their salvation. There's nothing wrong with telling people to repent of their sins. Jesus did. But let's not forget to tell them that only Jesus can save them—no amount of repentance and clean living will do the job.

2. Using fuzzy words.

If you use phrases that mean very different things to different people, then it's difficult to be sure that your audience understands what you're trying to tell them. For this reason, it is a good idea to avoid phrases like "ask Jesus into your heart" or "let Jesus touch you." It is usually better to use biblical words and phrases, with biblical definitions. John's Gospel is a good place to start.

3. Thinking that there's One Perfect Way to give an invitation.

There isn't. If you read through John's Gospel, you will discover that Jesus Himself uses different types of invitation with different people. So should you; there's no formula here. Ask God to give you wisdom to know what to say, and then be faithful to the biblical patterns of evangelism as best you can.

4. Thinking that your good gospel presentation sends people to heaven, or that your bad presentation sends people to hell.

People go to hell because they lack the righteousness that Jesus gives them. They go to hell because they do not have eternal life, because they have not believed in Jesus. People go to heaven because Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave, and they have believed in Him.

You should not be afraid that if you make some miniscule error in presenting the gospel, you will send people to hell. God uses fallible people—except for Jesus, He never uses any other kind—and He is bigger than your mistakes. The only way you will gain skill in evangelism is through practice. You *will* make mistakes. God knows this; don't fret about it. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.

You should not be subtly proud that the excellence and accuracy of your gospel presentation sends people to heaven. You don't have enough holes in your hands to send people to heaven. Jesus does it; you don't.

What you should do—what you must do—is simply be a faithful servant.

God gave a clear message; you should transmit that message clearly and faithfully because You are His servant. *Freely you have received; freely give.*