

Six Styles of Evangelism

One: Confrontational Style

Key Person: Peter in Acts 2

Peter, having been filled with the Holy Spirit, addresses the crowds that gathered to find out what was going on. In 2:14 we read that “Peter stood, raised his voice and addressed the crowd” in verse 40 we read “with many other words he warned them and he pleaded with them” 3000 people were baptized into the kingdom that day.

Key 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: You are confident, you’re bold, you are direct, you skip small talk—you like to get right to the point, and you have strong opinions.

Two: Intellectual Style

Key Person: Paul in Acts 17

Paul addresses those gathered to discuss religious and philosophical issues of the day. “Men of Athens, I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: To An Unknown God. Now what you are worshipping as something unknown, I am going to proclaim to you.” He presented a detailed, analytical argument.

Key Verse: 2 Cor 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: You are analytical, you’re logical, you are inquisitive, you like to debate, and you’re more concerned with what people think than how they feel.

Three: Testimonial Style

Key Person: The Blind Man in John 9

After Jesus healed this man who was born blind, the man is called to give an account to the Pharisees as to how he was healed. He simply told his questioners about what Jesus had done.

Key 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: You’re a clear communicator, you are a good listener, you are open about your personal life—it’s ups and downs, you are deeply impacted by how God reached you, and you see links between your own experience and that of other people’s.

Four: Interpersonal Style

Key Person: Matthew in Luke 5

Immediately after his decision to follow Jesus, Matthew has a party at his house. He invited Jesus and a group of his friends, also tax collectors. Jesus was able to mingle with Matthew’s friends and talk with them.

Key Verse: 1 Cor 9:22

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

Traits: You’re conversational, you are compassionate, you’re sensitive, you are friendship-oriented, you focus on people and their needs.

Five: Invitational Style

Key Person: The woman at the well in John 4

After Jesus tells her that He is the Messiah, she went back into the town and invited the people to come out to the well to meet the man who knew so much about her. John records that many of the people of that town came to believe in Jesus as a result of her testimony/invitation.

Key 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: You are hospitable, you’re persuasive, you enjoy meeting new people, you’re committed (ie, believe in the things in which you are involved), you see outreach events as unique opportunities to which people can be invited.

Six: Serving Style

Key Person: Dorcas in Acts 9

Dorcas, who was known for doing good things and helping the poor, got sick and then died. Some of her friends asked Peter to come to the house where she laid. Peter prayed and God raised her to life and restored her to her friends and ministry.

Key Verse: Matt 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: You are patient, you are people-centered, you see a need and find joy in meeting that need, you show love through action more than words, you attach value to even small tasks.

Summary

As you heard each of the six styles described, you no doubt heard a style that sounded like you.

- Write that style (s) down _____
- Ask God how He can use that style to influence those around you for Jesus.
- Remember, God is not going to set aside the spiritual gifts He’s given you and the personality style with which He made you as you do the work of evangelism to which He has called you.