

Soul Winning: The Christian's Business

by

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Chapter Two

Winsome Witness

Caroline attended a church service and signed a visitor's card. One of the church members called on her, inviting her to come again to the church. After the invitation, she began telling Caroline her troubles - that she was not appreciated at home, that she had many ailments, and that though she trusted the Lord, she had a hard life.

Caroline decided that if grumbling was Christianity, she didn't want any of it. Fortunately, Caroline's name was given to another member of the church, who also called on her. This woman had a bright, winsome manner and persuaded Caroline to come again to the services. She did so, receiving CHRIST as her Saviour, becoming established in the faith.

If you are going to be a soul winner, you have to be the kind of a person the Lord can use.

When you ask someone to become a Christian, in his mind you are asking him to become like you. He judges Christianity by what you are, and rightly so. The unchurched person's first impression of you is based on your physical appearance. Scripture so aptly reminds, "**Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterwards that which is spiritual**" (I Corinthians 15 :46) .

The Christian man must shave frequently, have regular haircuts, keep his suit pressed, wear a clean shirt, keep his shoes shined.

The Christian woman must keep her hair shining clean, her nails well manicured, wear well-fitting modern clothes, keep the seams of her stockings straight and her shoes in repair.

The Christian witness must be alert mentally.

No matter how convinced you are that international affairs are of secondary importance, if you would win the respect of the average citizen, you must have some knowledge of political and

economic conditions. Be able to discuss current events. Read the newspapers and a national magazine or two. Read your church publications so that you can discuss "religious" news with them.

Too, in this psychology-minded age, you must have a general knowledge of the subject. Otherwise, the modern man will confuse you with his airy dismissal of sin as being only based on the morals of the people. He will point out your own neurosis, and while admiring your faith, he will dismiss you with the excuse that it isn't his "pattern." You will find that in fitting yourself to win others, you become a better informed person.

Too, if the person you are trying to reach has a hobby, listen interestedly to him - be it dogs, cacti, coins, stamps, photography or golf. If you listen to him, he will in turn listen to you. There must be a meeting of the minds before he will listen when you discuss spiritual matters.

The supreme test to the unsaved is your livability.

Unless your Christianity is practical, they want none of it. Barbara couldn't win her husband to the Lord because he knew that she worried. He figured if she could not trust the Lord to provide for her when on earth, how could he trust the Lord for eternity? Alma never won her son to the Lord because she was perpetually dissatisfied with everything she had. The worldly person thinks, Of what advantage is a Saviour unless He makes one content? We repeat "**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want**" with the blissful hope that it means "The Lord will supply all my wants." But it may mean, "Because He is my shepherd, I shall not want anything else."

To be a successful soul winner one must possess the contentment of mind for which the world is seeking. You cannot interest anyone in your faith until you have proved that it is practical in everyday life.

~ end of chapter 2 ~

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