

## How to Be Ineffective at Sharing Your Faith

August 1, 2021

Mike Hauser



Acts Series: “Completely Irreligious, Yet Radically Christian” Part 28

Acts 17:16-34

### 1. Don't Pay Attention to People's \_\_\_\_\_ Stories

*While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.* Acts 17:16

Key to Successful Witnessing: \_\_\_\_\_ While You Wait

### 2. Make Conversation \_\_\_\_\_

*So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.* Acts 17:17

Key to Successful Witnessing: Remember it's about \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Don't Wait for Your Listeners to Become \_\_\_\_\_ Just Bore Them with Information

*Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.”* Acts 17: 19-20

Key to Successful Witnessing: Ask Questions that Create \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Be \_\_\_\_\_ When Your \_\_\_\_\_ are Trampled

A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbling trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” Acts 17:18 & 20

Key to Successful Witnessing:  
Always Respond with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

5. Be \_\_\_\_\_ ...You are the \_\_\_\_\_ and They are Your Student  
*Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People 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.* Acts 17:22

*As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’* Acts 17:28

Key to Successful Witnessing: Build \_\_\_\_\_ Ground

### 6. Don't Engage \_\_\_\_\_ ...Keep it Only on a Feelings Level

*“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’* As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ Acts 17: 24

*“Therefore since we are Gods offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill.* Acts 17:29

Key to Successful Witnessing: \_\_\_\_\_ Wisely

### 7) Be \_\_\_\_\_

*In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”* When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others. Acts 17:30-33

Key to Successful Witnessing: Don't Try to Manage God's Reputation...  
Speak \_\_\_\_\_