

Preparing Your Personal Testimony

Your testimony is not...

- the Gospel
- merely “God saved me”

- a platform to bash other individuals, groups, or churches

- a story about you (or your autobiography)

Your testimony is...

- a gateway to the Gospel
- an explanation of who you were before Christ, what Christ did in your life, and who you are now
- a platform to show God’s glory through your own conversion
- a story of God’s pursuit of a lost soul (you!)

Helpful Hints in Preparing Your Testimony

- Write the way you speak—make the testimony yours.
 - Avoid “Christian-ese” (e.g. sanctification, “washed in the blood”, etc.)
- Choose a theme and carry it throughout the testimony.
- Don’t be overly negative or positive. Be truthful.
- Don’t criticize or name any church, denomination, organization, etc.
- Use Scripture!!! (Scripture is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword; also, this will help you bridge conversation to the Gospel)
- Time limit should be 3 minutes (this is about your limit in a natural conversation)
- Practice it over and over (with other people) until it becomes natural.
- Pray.

Biblical Example

- Paul – Acts 26
 - Lead-in: v. 2-3
 - Before God: 4-11
 - How He Saved: 12-20
 - After God: 21-23
 - Closing: 24-29

Always remember

- Every Christian has a testimony. Some may be more dramatic, but every Christian at one point was equally going to hell. Your testimony is “unique”.
- There is no need to “build a testimony” so that you can better “relate”. In fact, this would be a sin (Romans 6:1, James 4:17).
- Your testimony is relevant and growing. Be flexible (but still truthful) depending on whom you tell. Don’t carve it into stone (God is still working on you!).

