

Unashamed of the Gospel

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,
to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith,
as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”
Romans 1:16–17

Application Questions

1. Making much of Christ necessarily—not optionally—includes proclaiming His gospel. Why?
2. Lack of evangelism is a _____. Many approach the lack of evangelism as through law: Thou shalt evangelize. As a result, much evangelism lacks true passion for God’s glory and compassion for the souls of men. Others manipulate emotions. Still others present our responsibility to evangelize as a take-it-or-leave-it option. Discuss what is wrong with these approaches. Discuss how Romans 1:16 presents a corrective to these approaches.
3. Nobody makes much of things for which they are ashamed. What do people do regarding things in their lives of which they are ashamed? Do we tell people around us about the majesty of Christ? Do we proclaim His excellencies? Do we call people to repentance and the grace of God in Christ? Do we pray for the salvation of souls? Do we reach out to our community with the gospel? Do we have an urgency about these things? What practical steps can we take to make much of Christ to the world around us?

4. To be ashamed involves the sense of guilt and remorse, painful feelings, being embarrassed, fear of the loss of status, fear of humiliation, and the lack of courage to stand up for something. Consider 1 Corinthians 2:3. Why would Paul say that he is not ashamed of the gospel? Keep in mind that there is no sense in saying that you're not ashamed of something when there is no reason to be ashamed of it.
5. Why might we be tempted to be ashamed of the gospel?
6. It is not like the world of Paul's day esteemed the gospel as something of great significance and the world of our day sees it as something of little consequence. The gospel went against the grain of Roman pride and dignity. Discuss some of the similarities between first-century Rome and today's Silicon Valley. Should we expect the gospel bring shame upon us in the Silicon Valley?
7. Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 1:26–31. Christianity is always the most hated religion in self-righteous populations. Why is that? From what do we need to be saved?
8. The gospel is more than words but cannot be less. Consider the following texts: Luke 14:23; 15:7; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 14:21; Luke 24:46-48; Romans 10:9-17.

9. Despite the likeliness of rejection (Acts 28:27-28; Matthew 10:14; Acts 13:46, 50-51) and even persecution (Luke 21:12-13; Philippians 1:29; Acts 5:41; Matthew 5:11), what is the right motive for proclaiming Christ? Consider Mark 8:38.

10. What should be our first and greatest motive in evangelism: (a) our reward, (b) the reward of those we evangelize, or (c) Christ's reward (the reward of His suffering). Consider Matthew 10:32; Colossians 1:27; Romans 1:1-5. How can being unashamed of Christ help us in our evangelism? In what areas does our thinking most need to be changed?