

MOTIVE OF LOVE

What is our motivation?

Ecclesiastes 4:4 And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. NIV

Outreach pitfalls:

1 Thessalonians 2:8b Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. NIV

A motive of love is easier, easier, and easier!

Invite them into a conversation.

There are people out there who would enjoy having a conversation about meaningful spiritual things. Some of them are your friends. Some of them are strangers.

If someone traps you into a conversation, what are you thinking about?

If you feel like someone is fishing...

Sometimes you can successfully trap someone into a conversation and something good comes of it. But that is not something I'm comfortable with, and I would suggest it is not the way to engage people in meaningful conversation.

Since I'm inviting people, I look for people who are interested in accepting the invitation

- "I'm just going around and talking to people about God..."
- "Can we talk seriously sometime..."

Engage them in conversation by listening, taking interest, and trying to understand.

If someone wants to challenge you to a spur of the moment debate about something that you have not really been thinking about, what do you want to do?

If someone wants to prove you wrong, what do you want to do?

If someone wants to hear your point of view, what do you want to do?

Ask lots of questions. Poke around.

- Do you believe in God?
- Are you part of any particular religion?
- Ask the questions that you are interested in knowing the answers to.

When you lovingly treat people as people instead of projects, they warm up to you!

Lovingly respond to where they are at. (Follow God's lead.)

Look for an opening into the gospel:

- Can I share with you what the Bible says about how we can know that we have eternal life?
- Can I share with you what the Bible says about how we can restore our relationship with God?

Be loving, not wishy-washy.