

## Personal Testimony

Identifying with Christ is one of the most important skills to learn at work – for two reasons: 1) it brings Christ to light and 2) it brings us to light. It is both a means of witness and personal accountability.

Your personal way of identifying may be as simple as saying you went to church when asked what you did last weekend. But you might want to give others a more specific example of what God has done in your life. We call this a “testimony.” Generally, at work, time is short. But like a brief mention of a day-trip you took, or a great play you saw in a game, there are opportunities to take a moment to share what God is doing (or has done) in your life.

I have what I call “one-minute testimonies” and a “three-minute testimonies.” Whether one is a one-minute testimony and another a three-minute testimony simply depends on the matter of detail you want to give and/or how much time you have. But they all follow the same pattern:

- 1) What was going on before God explicitly revealed Himself in the situation?
- 2) How did God intervene?
- 3) How is my life different because of what God has done?

The classic testimony goes something like this: 1) “Before I was a Christian my life was without a sense of purpose; I felt lost. I was concerned about my life and about death. . .” 2) “. . . but while I was telling a friend about some of my concerns, she shared with me what helped her: a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. She told me when she realized Jesus died for her sins and rose again to have a relationship with her – that changed everything . . . she invited me to do the same, so I did.” 3) “Since then, I’ve had a new sense of purpose and I’m no longer concerned as much with my own life as I am with others – how I can love them, and serve them . . .”

But testimonies can be about other things too. They can be about specific situations. For example: 1) “Work was getting me down. I felt like my boss was being unreasonable. I was thinking maybe I should try something else. . .” 2) “. . . I was reading in Colossians chapter 3 and ran across the phrase “It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” Then it hit me that maybe I need to learn to serve my boss as serving Christ. . .” 3) “This new perspective has changed the way I view him. Yeah, I still think he’s unreasonable at times, but I’ve decided to take the focus off of how he treats me and focus more on how I treat him. Strangely, I feel better about my job . . .”

Taking the time to think about how you might articulate what God has done or is doing in your life can be a valuable tool in being an effective disciple in the workplace.