

SHARING FAITH

Do vs. Done¹

This is the most simple and succinct tool I know for telling others about Christ. It gets right to the heart of the issue so many people are confused about. That is, it addresses the question of what part our own efforts play in attaining God's salvation.

Since this illustration is verbal, without need for any props or visual aids, it's a good one to use in ordinary conversations, including talks on the telephone.

It is also great for times when you know you've got to say it cleanly and quickly - like when you're on a ladder, halfway between a sailboat and a dinghy, looking up at a handful of slightly inebriated seekers! That's what I tried to do on that occasion.

"Well, first you've got to realize the difference between religion and Christianity," I started. "Religion is spelled 'D-O,' because it consists of the things people *do* to try to somehow gain God's forgiveness and favor.

"But the problem is that you never know when you've done enough. It's like being a salesman who knows he must meet a quota but never being told what it is. You can never be sure that you've actually done enough.

Worse yet, the Bible tells us in Romans 3:23 that we **never** can do enough. We'll always fall short of God's perfect standard.

"But thankfully," I went on, "Christianity is spelled differently. It's spelled 'D-O-N-E,' which means that what we could never do ourselves, Christ has already done for us. He lived the perfect life we could never live, and He willingly died on the cross to pay the penalty we owed for the wrongs we've done.

"To become a real Christian is to humbly receive God's gift of forgiveness and to commit to following His leadership. When we do that, He adopts us into His family, and begins to change us from the inside out."

I was glad to have such a concise tool as the "Do vs. Done" illustration. Let me encourage you to master it as well. It's easy to learn, yet it's very effective as a tool to help people understand the central tenets of the Christian faith, especially those who think they can get to heaven by being good enough.

The Roman Road¹

This is one of the most effective presentations for people who've heard the message but need to see it in black and white, right out of the pages of the Bible. It's based on three verses in the book of Romans. I'd suggest underlining these in your Bible so that they're easy to find and show to others.

The first verse to show your friend is Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." I explain, "According to this, all of us have sinned against God. This includes not only big sins, like rape and murder, but also stuff like the moral missteps, lies, cruelty, insensitivity toward others, losing your temper, cheating, and self-centeredness. I'm willing to admit to some of these. How about you?" Most people have no trouble admitting they've done these things, too.

Then I turn to the second verse, Romans 6:23, and let them read, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." I'll say, "According to this verse, those little wrongdoings you and I just admitted to have earned us a penalty. The penalty is death."

But then I'll draw attention to the second half of the verse, and say, "It refers here to a gift. God has offered us a gift of eternal life. We can freely receive God's forgiveness and His pardon from the death penalty that we owed. The penalty has been paid for by Jesus' death on the cross. And like any other gift, we can't earn it, we can only receive it. To find out how, let's turn to one more verse." And then I'll let the person read Romans 10:13, where it says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

"Do you see how simple it is to receive God's gift? All we have to do is recognize the fact that we've sinned and deserve death, and then call out to God humbly for His forgiveness and the new life He's offering us. That's what I did a few years back, and I'd like to encourage you to do the same."

¹ From [Becoming a Contagious Christian](#) by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg