

When we read our Bibles, we should look for repetition and the logical inclusion of the content by the Holy Spirit. John is referred to as a “witness” 13 times in the first chapter of John’s gospel. The Holy Spirit makes a big deal about John’s witness (John 1:7, 8, 19). Witness = Testimony. John was Witness giving a testimony about Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Witness = Testimony = Evangelism (telling other people about the gospel of Jesus Christ).

1. Commissioned (v. 6)

- John the Baptist was called, commissioned, and sent by God. It was prophesized 600 years prior to his birth that John the Baptist would be sent from God. Every born-again Christian is commissioned by God to evangelize and make disciples. We are either an evangelist, or we are imposters (C.H. Spurgeon). The Father sent Jesus, and now He sends us (John 20:21). We are the “sent-out ones.”

A) What does it mean to be commissioned by God? What does that look like today?

2. Clear (v. 7)

- The clear mission of John the Baptist is that all may believe in the Person, work, and words of Jesus Christ. Candor is a component of being clear about (1) our sin nature and (2) salvation found in Jesus Christ alone. We must cultivate a kindness so that our candor falls with love and gentleness instead of being harsh and unkind.

B) Why is it important to be clear about our sin and salvation found in Christ? How does this relate to the gospel? _____

3. Credible (v. 8)

- If we are to be effective evangelists, our testimony must be believable. Light is about knowledge/understanding AND holiness (119:105). We must live in the light to be effective talking about the light. None of us have the light in our lives apart from Christ.

C) What areas in your life challenge the credibility of your testimony? Where does your sin make you hypocritical? _____

D) On what scripture can you prayerfully meditate to renew your mind? List 1-2 people you can share with this week. _____

4. Contrite (v. 15)

- "Humility" is a synonym for contrite. John the Baptist's humility was evident in his lowly attitude toward Jesus Christ – he did not consider himself worthy to untie Jesus' sandal - and neither are we. Self-importance should be the last feature of our salvation and life in Christ – the Light. When we approach evangelism, we must be wise with the words we share and the ways we share them (Prov 11:30)

E) How can you be more self-less in your evangelism and disciple-making? How can you think more highly of others? _____

F) What areas of your life can you gain a few yards in wisdom or skill in evangelizing? _____

5. Confess Truth (v. 20)

- A Christian is someone who confesses Christ. The word "confess" means to "say the same thing." We must say *the same thing* that God says about sin, and about Jesus Christ. John the Baptist confesses the truth of Jesus as Messiah over and over. Christianity is a thinking man's game and an intellectually factual religion. We must know and confess the truth of Jesus Christ.

G) Why is it difficult to tell the truth about sin to sinners? Why is it so important to also confess Jesus Christ? _____

6. Crying Out (v.23)

- Urgency. Boldness. A strong voice. Very few of us are bold, and many are timid. When we fear God instead of men, we cry out with boldness (2 Cor 5:11; Acts 5:29).

H) What causes you to be timid instead of being bold? _____

I) How can you be more bold and less timid in your evangelism and disciple-making? What would that look like in your LG? _____

7. Christ-Promoting (v. 34)

- A credible believer is a singer of one note – Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is worthy and glorious, just and wrathful, loving and kind. We must have our eyes open to the privilege to see the Glory of Jesus Christ.

J) List several verses to meditate on the glories of Christ. Share with your LG. _____

K) To whom can you promote Christ this week? _____

None of us have all seven of these – none of us have arrived yet - but all of us should challenge each other in work and good deeds.