

NewSpring Church Groups Guide

5 Lies of the Devil — Lie #4 — My Faith is a Private Issue

Truth stings. And by its very nature, truth is exclusive. When someone says, “I’m right,” they are insinuating that everyone else is wrong. In our pluralistic society we are very careful not to make that kind of a public stand for our beliefs in fear that we might be viewed as narrow or dogmatic.

For a Christ-follower, not going public with your faith is not an option. The equivalent would be Jesus privately resurrecting from the dead. It is just not an option.

The truth of the gospel is this: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). To keep this gospel truth and its work in your life private is the very work of satan. He does not want the light of Christ to shine in and through you because he doesn’t want the light of Christ to invade the darkness of another person’s dead soul.

For the Christ-follower, Baptism is the public pronouncement of an intensely personal—not private—faith. It is an opportunity for every believer to identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. For the believer it is our first act of Christian obedience.

- Why do you think people say, “My faith is a private issue”?
- What was your primary motivation for being baptized?
- Read Matthew 28:18-20. Why do you think Jesus asked us to make baptism a priority?
- Acts 9:18, 16:14-15, and 16:33. Why are the people in these stories so eager to be baptized? What does our eagerness to obey say about our relationship to God?
- Read Acts 8:26-40. Notice how the people in this story acted immediately when prompted by God. What step of obedience have you delayed?
- Read 2 Corinthians 6:1-2. What does it mean to receive God’s grace in vain? How are you urgently, actively sharing what Jesus has done for you?

Matthew 10:26-27 “So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.”

The incredible message of hope found in the gospel of Jesus Christ comes with responsibility. We cannot receive this life-changing message and then be quiet about it. We must tell the truth at every opportunity. He is Lord!

Prayer - Thank you for your work in our lives. You have made everything new. How can we keep from sharing what you've done for us? Give us courage to speak the truth of your love to those around us. Help us to obey and show us what to do next.

Challenge the members of your group to take a "next step" in their spiritual journey. For some, that may mean accepting Christ or making their faith public through baptism. For others, that may mean sharing their faith with a co-worker this week.