

# *Taking Your Faith Private*



*Part 3 – Why Speak At All?*

# *Taking Your Faith Private*



## *Quick Review*

- Stigma - An attribute, behavior or reputation which is socially discrediting, causing an individual to be labeled as a deviant from the norm.
- Stigma is societally enforced.*
- Prejudice - A preconceived (often unfounded) judgment towards persons because of gender, social class, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, etc.
- Passing - A cultural performance where a member of a stigmatized group acts in a way to avoid the stigma associated with that group, including: (1) fabrication, (2) concealment, (3) avoidance.

# *Taking Your Faith Private*



## *Quick Review*

- Stigma:** Christians are socially discrediting, causing a pressure to conform to the norm, or at least avoid deviating from the norm.
- Secularization:** An effort to transform society from close identification with religious values and institutions towards nonreligious values and secular institutions.
- Leads to:** A belief in dualism, where our public lives are devoid of religious expression, and any religious beliefs are kept strictly private.



# *Taking Your Faith Private*

## *Why Speak At All?*



- Why Do We Need To Speak Out At All? Is it really a problem if we keep our faith to ourselves?
- Aren't our good actions enough? Can't we just witness through our actions?
- Haven't we done enough harm in speaking publicly? Aren't some of the worst expressions of Christianity magnified by the media's ability to swoop in and report our bad conduct?

# *Taking Your Faith Private*

## *Why Speak At All?*



“Preach the gospel at all times,  
when necessary use words.”

# *Taking Your Faith Private*

## *Why Speak At All?*



### Paul's calling to preach:

“I urge, then, first of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the truth faith to the Gentiles”

1 Timothy 2:1-7



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## *Why Speak At All?*



### Paul's eagerness to preach:

“I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and to the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘the righteous will live by faith.’ ”

Romans 1:14-17

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## *Why Speak At All?*



### **Paul commands believers to preach:**

“You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine... In everything set them a good example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.”

Titus 2:1, 7-8



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## *Why Speak At All?*



### Paul commands believers to preach:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

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## *Why Speak At All?*



### **Jesus instructed disciples to preach:**

“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there, and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’ ”

Luke 10:5-9

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## *Why Speak At All?*



### **Jesus instructed disciples to preach:**

“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ ”

Matthew 28:16-20



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## *Why Speak At All?*



### **Jesus instructed disciples to preach:**

“He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’”

Acts 1:7-8

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Haven't we done enough harm in speaking publicly?

Aren't some of the worst expressions of Christianity magnified by the media's ability to swoop in and report our bad conduct?

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## *Why Speak At All?*



### **Breaking Down the Barriers:**

Socratic/Questioning Evangelism

Build relationships with people

Prayerful engagement with the Spirit and others

Creative acts of loving service coupled with verbal witness





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### INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

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### THOUGHTFUL



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Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

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### FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

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