

Live Out Loud

Courageous and Contagious

Stop Making It So Complicated!

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / 24-Jan-2016

1. Don't complicate things by trying to modify or improve the seed of the Word of God!

Luke 8:5,11

⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed...¹¹ Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.**

Several times throughout the Bible, the saving Word of God is likened to a seed.

James 1:18-21

¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures....²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and **receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.**

1 Peter 1:23

²³ ...**since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable**, through the living and abiding **word of God...**

God doesn't need us to make improvements to the quality of the seed. In every circumstance, with every person, we need to remember the seed—the Word of God—is good as *is* & able to save!

Isa. 55:11

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Gal. 1:9,10

⁹As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. ¹⁰For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

2. Don't complicate things by thinking you need to be “soil expert” before planting Gospel seeds!

1 Cor. 3:5-7

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, **but God gave the growth.** ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, **but only God who gives the growth.**

Whether or not the seed bears fruit in a person's life depends on the condition of the hearer's heart, and what God is doing in that person's life. We can plant, and we can water, but it's God and God alone who brings about fruit!

3. Don't complicate things by thinking you need the perfect "weather conditions" to plant the seed of the Gospel!

Do pray for God to make you aware of opportunities, but don't wait for the perfect time. Sow seeds, sow broadly, sow often, and leave the rest in God's hands.

Ecc. 11:4-6

⁴He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. ⁵As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. ⁶In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

4. Don't complicate things by being obnoxious in your approach. God hasn't called you to do the heavy-lifting; just the sowing!

1 Cor. 1:18,23

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ²³but we preach Christ crucified, **a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles**, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Don't be a "grace-blocker" with an attitude that is more offensive than the Gospel you share. The message of the cross is offensive by God's design. If the hearer is offended, may it be because of the truth of God's Word, not the attitude of God's people.

Rom. 1:16

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, **for it is the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes...

1 Pet. 3:15

¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to **make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you**; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

5. Don't complicate things by thinking people need to straighten out their lives before believing the Gospel. Invite people to come as they are, knowing the Lord can and will change them to be more like Christ, just like He's doing for you and me!

Joel 2:32

³²And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

Isa. 1:18

¹⁸"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

Rom. 5:8

⁸...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.