

The Three “I AM’s” of Evangelism

Teaching the lost should be one of the central themes and focuses of the Lord’s church. Sadly, many Christians do not even know where to start when it comes to seeking and saving those who are lost. Evangelism must begin in the heart—so as you pray, remember the “Three I Am’s.”

I am a debtor. We will not work with the proper motive until we realize how much we owe our Lord. Paul wrote, “*While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*” Romans 5:8 Without the sanctifying gift of Christ’s death, we were without mercy, grace, and hope. Thanks be unto God for this great gift! With the knowledge of our debt to God, we will realize the work that lies before us. Paul wrote, “*I am debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and unwise. So much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.*” Romans 1:14-15 We must realize that Christ as saved us so that we may save others.

I am not ashamed. Sometimes people feel afraid or self-conscious when it comes to telling others the good news of Christ. Paul said, “*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*” Romans 1:16 There is the story of the young prince who was captured in battle. When the enemy placed him on the city square and demanded that he, upon pains of death, renounce his father and country, he refused. He said, “I cannot do such for I am a child of the king.” Likewise, the apostles replied to the threat of persecution, “*For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*” Acts 4:20 We must not be ashamed of God’s love for us...instead, we must tell the whole world of his saving grace.

I am ready. When a soul is burdened with his debt to the lost and when that soul is totally committed to, and unashamed of his Lord, then that soul is ready to take the gospel to every creature. Much like the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6), who saw God’s glory and heard God’s command, we will reply with the phrase, “*Here am I, send me!*”

—Mark Ray