

HOW TO ADOPT AN EVANGELISTIC LIFESTYLE WITHOUT ALIENATING PEOPLE

Some Christians believe adopting an evangelistic lifestyle means they must seek to drag people to church, a tactic that can backfire when applied injudiciously. Adopting an evangelistic lifestyle simply means living a life that reflects that the teachings of Jesus are active in your mind and heart.

1 ADOPT AN ATTITUDE OF WELCOMING, PERSONAL HOSPITALITY, AND ACCEPTANCE.

Jesus invited people of little status to join him wherever he was. He dined with sinners, tax collectors, and women—people who often were disregarded during biblical times. Follow Jesus' example.

2 ACTIVELY SEEK OUT OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AS JESUS DID.

When you live an evangelistic lifestyle, you actively look for ways to serve the needs of others and to treat all people as neighbors.

3 INITIATE NATURAL AND UNFORCED FAITH CONVERSATIONS AS A MATTER OF HABIT.

Talk about your faith journey and where it has led you. Compare notes with others without casting judgment. Avoid falling in love with the sound of your own voice or the repeated retelling of your life story. Attempt to learn something from everyone.



Unpretentiousness is a valuable ally when attempting to adopt an evangelistic lifestyle. Act casually.

4 CONSIDER WEARING SYMBOLS OF YOUR FAITH; AVOID CONTRIVED GARISHNESS.

Wear a tasteful cross necklace on a regular basis, but consider concealing it from time to time under clothing. Read the Bible during your lunch hour, but consider purchasing an edition with an unobtrusive cover. Displaying faith symbols offers others the opportunity to ask about them, but glaring announcements of Jesus' love can have an undesirable effect.

5 **ESTABLISH A HABIT OF WANTON FORGIVENESS.** Everybody makes mistakes. Make forgiveness a foundation of your life. Forgiveness consumes less energy than anger or revenge, and it serves as a strong witness to God's work.

6 **MAINTAIN A RIGOROUS PRAYER SCHEDULE.** An important foundation for an evangelistic lifestyle is regular conversations with God, which centers you for daily living.

BE AWARE

- 1 Many people may have experienced "evangelistic" people as unnecessarily negative and judgmental. Use grace and forgiveness to counteract this negativism.
- 1 How you act may be more important than what you say.