

**2 Tim 4:1** I can't impress this on you too strongly. God is looking over your shoulder. Christ himself is the Judge, with the final say on everyone, living and dead. He is about to break into the open with his rule, **2** so proclaim the Message with intensity; keep on your watch. Challenge, warn, and urge your people. Don't ever quit. Just keep it simple.

**3** You're going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food - catchy opinions that tickle their fancy.

**4** They'll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages. **5** But you - keep your eye on what you're doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the Message alive; do a thorough job as God's servant. **6** You take over. I'm about to die, my life an offering on God's altar. **7** This is the only race worth running. I've run hard right to the finish, believed all the way. **8** All that's left now is the shouting - God's applause! Depend on it, he's an honest judge. He'll do right not only by me, but by everyone eager for his coming.

## Getting it all wrong!

### **Do you ever take on too much?**

I think that I try not to...but I do anyway.

And what are the results?

Key: Relationships start to suffer

People stop by...I make an effort to let go of my cart load of stuff to do

I really do try harder

Try not to be so driven...

Sometimes I take a relaxed approach to job requests...

If you are one of these people...I apologize...try not to let it damage our relationship

People have told me to slow down...and then...

Key: Communication starts to break down

Who noticed? Telmex gives me a buzon...but

Telmex...the art of communication

So People stop by.

Telmex incident

I got it all wrong

Let's talk a little about Communication

The Telmex incident wasn't all my fault

- failed to ID himself as a sales person
- failed to inform me who he was representing
- failed to explain what he was handing me
- he was probably afraid that I wouldn't be very easy to communicate with

He was basically a messenger who failed to deliver a message

He got it all wrong

Being evangelical Christians is all about being messengers  
Effective messengers  
About getting it all right

So how do we become more effective messengers?

The basics...

Communicate

Form and cultivate relationships

Keep your feet on the ground which is to say don't overload the process

What can we learn from the Telmex guy:

- failed to ID himself as a sales person
- failed to inform me who he was representing
- failed to explain what he was handing me
- he was probably afraid that I wouldn't be very easy to communicate with
- he gave up

Failed to ID himself

I think he was new to the job and didn't yet know what it was to be a salesperson

What is it to be a salesperson?

What is it to be a Christian?

A lot of people have no clear idea what Christianity is...they think they know

Some call themselves Christians, or simply state that they are religious because they attend church or were baptized by their parents.

Some think it's a philosophy and their adherence makes them a Christians

It's like the word 'fundamentalism'

Show of hands is it good....bad

I love that word...it's like yelling BOO!  
It doesn't inherently mean anything but it really gets a rise out of a lot of people.

Just like 'Christianity' to the world

It can be reassuring or revolting...sacred or really scary

Depending on how it's used

So.....What is it to be a Christian?

To have a *relationship* with Jesus Christ

Sometimes people fail to ID themselves as Christians because they haven't yet been called to know Christ.

By knowing Christ I mean a personal, intimate, relationship with steady two-way communication.

This relationship will define who we are in an undeniable way.

Telmex guy....next...he failed to communicate who he represented.

- no name tag, no telmex uniform, no hat, folder, he had a few tattoos but none of them said Telmex ...nothing indicated to whom he held his allegiance...he just looked like any other guy

How will people recognize to whom you swear your allegiance  
Not suggesting tags, uniforms or hats...and definitely not tattoos

Will people see us loving and caring for people around us.  
Will they see patience and kindness and hear words of encouragement  
Will they know we are Christians by our love  
Will they find us accessible and ready to listen quietly to their concerns  
Or will we just look, sound, and act like any other folks

Will everybody get it all wrong?

Telmex never explained what he had brought for me

He handed me a brochure (which looked just like junk mail to me)

Inviting people to relationship...with whom?

- with us
- with God

Here's where we have to keep the donkey's feet on the ground

We invite people to a relationship with us and through our relationship with Christ.

God places in their hearts Belief in our Lord

Belief leads to an experience of Christ

Experience leads to a relationship with Christ that brings us to know Him

God gives Belief – Experience – Relationship – Knowledge

We can't impart any of these to anyone and to try to is...well

It's funny how people love to sit and argue for Christ when the things you say are like a foreign language to unsaved people

Taking directions in Spanish, Pointing

Without the language all you can do is point

e.g. Profanity sensitivity = incomprehensible

Good Evangelicals (bringing good news) Point to the word

We don't need to argue, prove, or interpret the word just point.

Presentation, clarity, consistency, example

- Can they see Christ in your life...sometimes that is enough

They will know we are Christians by our love

Telmex was afraid to communicate with me. So he never really tried.

I have absolutely no need to buy a notebook computer with easy financing.

But he didn't know that. He could have tried.

All we are called to do is to establish relationships, share our witness, and to wait for God to open the door and begin His work of redeeming. He will bring us in as He wills us to participate having prepared us in advance.

Don't take on too much.

Finally ...Telmex gave up...took offense...and stormed out...no big deal...it was only a computer.

Brothers and sisters...our commission is a big deal...don't give up.

I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners? (Matt 9:13)

**John 6:** ) **43** Jesus said, "Don't bicker among yourselves over me. **44** You're not in charge here. The Father who sent me is in charge. He draws people to me - that's the only way you'll ever come. Only then do I do my work, putting people together, setting them on their feet, ready for the End. **45** This is what the prophets meant when they wrote, 'And then they will all be personally taught by God.' Anyone who has spent any time at all listening to the Father, really listening and therefore learning, comes to me to be taught personally - to see it with his own eyes, hear it with his own ears, from me, since I have it firsthand from the Father **65** He went on to say, "This is why I told you earlier that no one is capable of coming to me on his own. You get to me only as a gift from the Father

him.