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| Shape  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | |  | How To Share Your Testimony  **Pastor Jason McCray** |
| **1 Peter 3:15**  *but 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,*  Before you share your story with others, make sure that you are honoring Christ as Lord in your heart and public life. A failure to do so will embarrass God and result in being a hypocrite. Then you need to be prepared to answer others about the hope you have in Christ and His gospel. Finally, share your story with gentleness and respect, not with harshness and arrogance.  We are all saved the same way, by grace through faith and not by works (Eph. 2:8-9), but our stories about how we came to that point will vary. While our stories are personal and powerful tools that can be used of God to influence the mind, we must remember that it is God’s Word that changes hearts and lives (Rom. 10:14-17).  **1. As a rule, keep it short.**  Only elaborate if the context of your situation is conducive to a longer telling.  **2. Avoid glorifying past sin.**  There is no need to give the details about each sin issue that you had.  **3. Give God the credit.**  We did not come to Christ because we were clever or smart.  **4. Avoid religious words.**  Use the words appropriate for the audience you are speaking to.  **5. Tell what you were like before Christ, how you came to know Christ, how God has changed you and is still changing you to do this day (2 Cor. 5:17; Php 1:6).**  The Apostle Paul is a great example for these principles. You can read his testimony stories in the book of Acts, chapters 9, 22 and 26. |
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