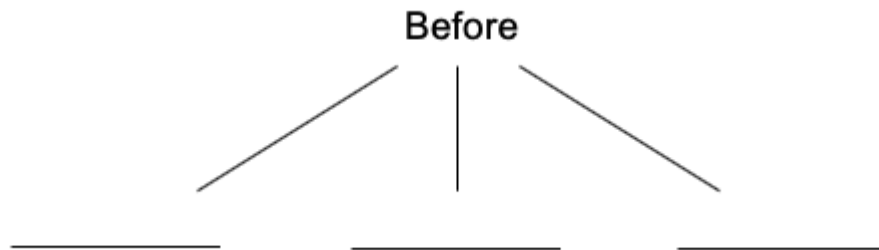


Testimony

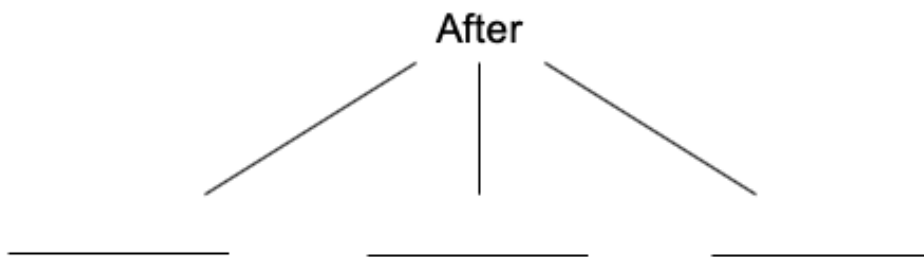
"...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..." -1 Peter 3:15

What does this verse command us to do?

One way that we make a defense or "give an answer" as another translation says, is by sharing what God has done personally in our lives. Showing people how God has changed us helps them realize that God is real and changes lives. First, let's think about your life before you were a Christian. What were you like? Name three things that characterized your life.



Now, think about what your life has been like since Christ. How has Jesus changed you since you've become a Christian? Name three things that characterize your life now.



When you have a spiritual conversation with somebody, you can share your testimony very quickly by describing what you used to be like, how you became a Christian, and what you are like now in only a minute or two.

For example, if somebody is talking about a difficult issue in their life, you can say something like, "Yeah, I know what you mean. I used to really struggle with anger, but when I became a Christian, God replaced that anger with peace." Then you could describe how that happened. You could share just one or all three of the things that you just wrote down.

It's important to remember that ultimately your testimony isn't about you. It's ultimately about God and his glory. Our testimony should always point to God's grace and mercy toward us. You could say something like, "When God started changing me, I realized that it wasn't ultimately about me and all the things he's done for me, but it's ultimately about him. He saved me and deserves my worship."

Your testimony is a great way to engage people in spiritual conversation, because it's simply the story of what God has done in your life. It can be helpful to have a 30-second version, a three-minute version and a thirty-minute version, depending on how much time you have with somebody. Let's take a minute to write out a short version of our testimonies and then share them with each other.

Practice