



CITIZENS CHURCH

Preparing Your Testimony

The purpose of this document is to help you articulate your testimony. We want to help you think about all the Lord has done in your life and we want to rejoice in the transformation of your heart by Jesus Christ.

A testimony is a witness and proclamation of who God is, what He has done, what we believe and how those beliefs have changed us. The focus is to glorify God, not make it all about us. We hope these questions will be an aid as you think through how God has revealed Himself to you and His transforming power in your life.

Life Before Christ

- Each of us has different journeys to Jesus. Our lives before we knew Him were in desperate need of His saving grace. What did your life look like before knowing Christ?
- For all of us there are not only external sins sin but also internal sins and pains in our hearts. Jeremiah 17:9 says, “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” What internal pain/sins were you walking in?

Conversion

- As much as we have different lives leading up to salvation, we reach that point when we realize our need for salvation. What brought you to this moment, this realization?
- What/who did God use in your life that caused you to consider Christ? When did you begin sensing His call on your life?
- How have your beliefs changed?
- What has God revealed to you about who He is? How has that changed you?

Life With Christ

- After salvation, the Holy Spirit begins the work of sanctification. He begins to mold us and chip away at our lives and hearts so that we might better imitate Christ. How have you seen fruit in your life and evidences of the Holy Spirit at work in you? What external changes have you seen? How has your heart changed internally?

How to Develop Your Personal Baptismal Testimony

Read Acts 26.

- What was Paul's approach to Agrippa?
- What did Paul include in his background?
- How did he describe his meeting Jesus?
- Why should we use a personal testimony?

When writing out your testimony, make it personal, not preachy; use "I" and "me," not "you" and "we." It's also helpful to follow an outline:

- The before: short sketch of your life before you became a Christian, including how you became aware of your need for Christ.
- How, specifically, you became a Christian.
- Communicate the gospel clearly and briefly; include the following:
 - (a) The fact of sin
 - (b) The penalty of sin
 - (c) Jesus' payment for that sin
 - (d) The requirement to repent and trust Jesus personally
 - (e) The steps you took to invite Christ into your life.
- The aftermath: how did Jesus change your life; relate back to the areas you struggled with before conversion.