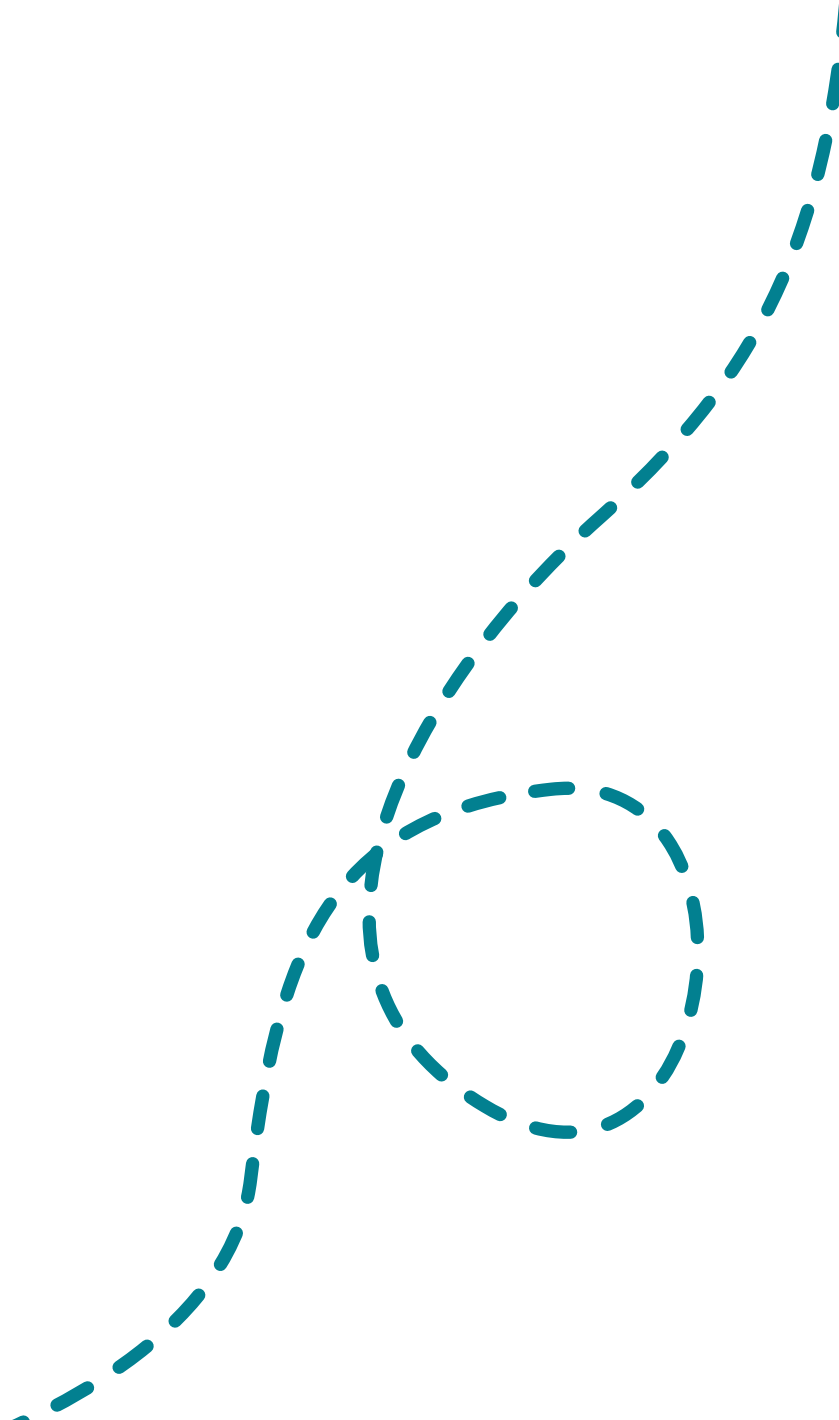




Healthy Church: **What Is Christian Witness?**



Christian Witness

02

Noun

Definition: Participating with Jesus in making his love, life, and good news known through our words, actions, and relationships.

What Is Christian Witness?

When many people hear words like *evangelism* or *witness*, they may think of public speaking, special programs, or having all the right answers. Yet throughout Scripture, witness is often much more personal and relational.

A witness shares what they have seen, heard, and experienced.

As followers of Jesus, we bear witness to the good news that God has revealed himself in Jesus Christ and reconciled the world to himself. Through our lives, conversations, and relationships, we point others toward the God who has drawn near to humanity in Christ.

This calling belongs to every believer. Whether through friendship, hospitality, service, prayer, or conversation, every member can participate in sharing the hope found in Jesus.

Witness Begins with Jesus

03

The first Christians spoke about Jesus because they knew him. Their witness grew out of their relationship with the risen Lord and their experience of his transforming grace.

The message of the early church centered on Jesus Christ. They proclaimed his life, death, resurrection, ascension, and ongoing ministry. Their confidence came from who Jesus is and what he had done (**Acts 2:22–36**).

The same foundation remains for us today.

As we grow in relationship with Jesus, our awareness of his presence increases. We begin to recognize his faithfulness in our own lives and become more prepared to share that hope with others. Christian witness grows from knowing Christ and participating in his life.

Growing in Gospel Fluency

04

One of the most helpful ways we prepare for witness is by becoming fluent in the gospel.

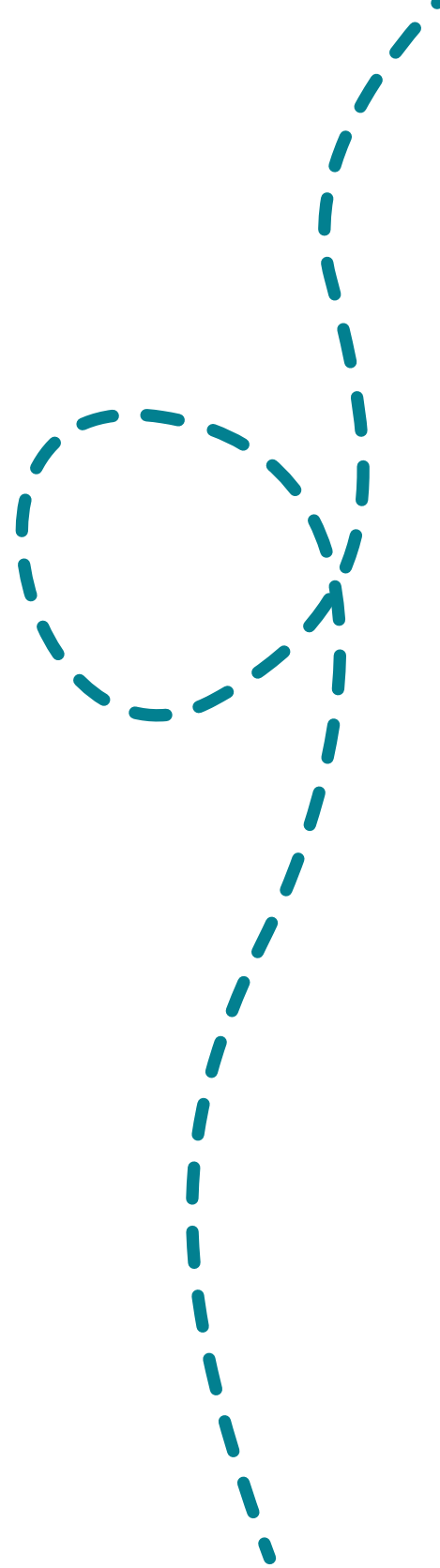
Gospel fluency begins with understanding the good news of Jesus Christ. The gospel is the announcement that God has acted in Jesus to reconcile humanity to himself. Through Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension, we have been welcomed into relationship with the Father through the Spirit (**Colossians 1:19–20; 2 Corinthians 5:18–19**).

The gospel tells us that God loves us, has drawn near to us in Christ, and invites us to participate in his kingdom life. It is the story of God's faithfulness, redemption, and restoration.

Gospel fluency means learning to see our lives through this good news. It helps us recognize where Jesus is present and active in our relationships, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities.

As we become more familiar with the gospel story, we also become more comfortable sharing our own stories. We learn to speak naturally about the hope we have in Christ **(1 Peter 3:15)**, the ways God has been faithful, and the difference Jesus makes in our daily lives.

People are often drawn to authentic stories of God's work. When we learn to recognize his activity, we become better equipped to share it.



Witness Flows from Spiritual Formation

06

Christian witness is closely connected to our relationship with God.

Jesus often withdrew to pray and spend time with the Father (**Luke 5:16**). He invites us to abide in him, knowing that fruitfulness grows from remaining connected to him (**John 15:4–5**).

Practices such as prayer, worship, Scripture reading, fellowship, and service help us become more attentive to God's presence. These practices do not earn God's favor. They help us grow in our awareness of the God who already loves us and invites us into deeper communion with him.

As we spend time with Jesus, our hearts become more aligned with his heart. We begin to see people through the lens of God's love and become more attentive to opportunities to encourage, serve, listen, and pray.

Witness often begins long before a conversation about faith. It grows from a life being shaped by the love of Christ.

Witness Through Relationships

07

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus met people in the ordinary moments of life. Around tables, along roads, and in homes, he listened, asked questions, extended hospitality, and revealed the Father's love.

Jesus described his followers as the salt of the earth and the light of the world (**Matthew 5:13–16**). Our witness often takes shape through everyday relationships and faithful presence in our communities.

As we build relationships, serve our neighbors, and care for those around us, opportunities arise to share the hope we have found in Christ. These conversations grow naturally out of trust and genuine connection.

When we view people as those deeply loved by God, witness becomes an expression of that love. We learn to pay attention to what God is already doing in their lives and join him there.

Your Place in Christ's Mission

08

Every member has a place in Christ's mission.

Before his ascension, Jesus commissioned his followers to participate in making disciples and bearing witness to him among all peoples (**Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8**). This calling extends to the whole Church.

Some people naturally connect with newcomers. Others create welcoming environments, offer practical support, or develop deep friendships. Each expression contributes to the witness of the Church.

The Father is drawing people to himself (**John 6:44**). Jesus continues his ministry through the Church as its living Head (**Ephesians 1:22–23**), and the Holy Spirit is active in every community (**John 16:13**).

As members of Christ's body, we participate in that ongoing work. Our role is to remain attentive, available, and responsive to where God is leading.

Next Steps for Members

09

- **Notice:** Spend time this week paying attention to where God may already be at work in your daily life and relationships.
- **Practice:** Reflect on how the gospel has shaped your own story. Consider how you might share that experience with someone else.
- **Participate:** Look for opportunities to serve, welcome, encourage, or pray with others. Small acts of faithfulness often open doors for deeper conversations.



Conclusion

10

Christian witness is part of our calling as followers of Jesus. As we grow in relationship with him, we become more aware of his presence and activity in the world around us.

Through everyday conversations, acts of service, hospitality, and friendship, we bear witness to the good news of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ.

The good news is already at work in the world. As members of Christ's body, we have the privilege of participating in that work and helping others discover the hope, joy, and belonging found in him.

Footnotes

"Preaching in the Early Church" – GCI Article