



EMANUEL
UNIVERSITY OF ORADEA
INTEGRITY, EXCELLENCE & PASSION

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HOW TO TALK
**ABOUT
CHRIST?**

**“we cannot stop speaking about
what we have seen and heard.”**

One of the most enjoyable experiences for a lover of ancient art is a visit to the Athens History Museum. There the visitor can admire some of the statues of deities that the apostle Paul probably saw when he visited the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17). But the apostle's experience differs radically from that of the modern visitor. To some of us, the visit would delight our eyes; to Paul, the

speaking to them about Christ. Can we learn from Paul's example, especially those of us who live surrounded by unsaved friends, colleagues, and neighbors? In Acts 17, **the Apostle urges us to take the following steps:**

TAKE THE PULSE OF YOUR SOUL!

Although Athens excelled in art, the apostle did not walk the streets of the polis just to admire the monuments and imposing statues, especially the statues of the gods. Paul's spirit was more moved than delighted by the artistic qualities of the idols' statues. Looking at the Apostle Paul we can say that there is an inverse relationship between the seduction of the culture in the midst of which we live and the sorrow of soul for the eternal fate of those around us who worship modern idols! Jesus reacted quite differently: when the disciples were moved to awe by the columns and gold of the Temple in Jerusalem, Jesus was moved to tears! To be Christ-minded is not to become anarchistic towards the values of the culture in which you live. It doesn't mean destroying your laptop, your cell phone and your TV, nor does it mean not talking to friends or colleagues who don't honor Christ. But if the culture has become so enraptured with you that you no longer feel the pain of the judgment that will condemn idols along with the people who worship them, then take the first step: take the spiritual pulse of your soul, not just those around you!

APPROACH PEOPLE PERSONALLY!

The apostle personally, persistently and consistently sought out people. He went not only to the Areopagus where philosophers met, but also to the synagogues because that is where the Jews worshipped, even if his audacity finally got him killed. Does the fact that Jesus Christ did not allow himself to be sought but came to seek and save the lost compel us to answer? There was no apostle in New Testament times whom we know of who prayed more intensely than the apostle Paul did. But Paul did not quiet his mind with the experience of prayer alone in private, at least without prayer he would not have won the battles he was called to fight. Knowing he would be "woe to him" if he did not preach the gospel, Paul approached people personally - including those who would later contribute to his arrest and conviction.

BE RESPECTFUL, NOT CONFLICTUAL!

The first words with which Paul greeted the Athenian men were: "I see that you are very religious in all respects" (vs. 22). The professional orators at Areopagus called him a "talker." In response, Paul could have cited sufficient reasons to attack the idolatrous, false, and erotic religion of the Greeks, but he did not. To preach the truth is to confront darkness, not to sacrifice respect. The "little" man is insecure and will use conflict to dominate the one he is intimidated by. The man sure of his salvation will confidently use the truth to win the one for whom Christ died. He follows the example of Paul, who did not begin by humiliating the Gentiles for what they did not know but sought a bridge between their faith and biblical truth. He affirmed the part of truth in their pagan

those I speak to? Be wise! Follow the example of Christ, who said to the scribe, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God"!

BE PREPARED, NOT A QUITTER!

When the apostle told the Greeks, "for in Him we live and move and exist" and "for we also are His descendants" (vs. 28), he quoted from the Greek poets Epimenides (Hymn to Zeus, ca. 600 BC) and Aratus (Phainomena, ca. 300 BC). Although a Jew, Paul made an effort to get to know the vision and thought of the Greeks. Am I wrong in saying that we are arrogant in claiming others to embrace our faith, without making the slightest effort to understand how they think? In the age of informational globalism consider yourself no more than a "clay pot" but do everything with excellence "with all your heart, as unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:23)!

CONFRONT DARKNESS WITH THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL!

Paul could have simply praised the Greeks for their "religiosity", subliminally suggesting that they continue to worship an "unknown God". Yet he refused to sugarcoat the poison of idolatry and, more importantly, to sacrifice the truth of the gospel. Or to give up the Message by invoking the excuse that people are fed up with talk anyway and that they only long for our good works. *Paul teaches us that living beautifully before our friends is to supplement, not replace, the proclamation of the Gospel.* Regardless of their wisdom, the Stoic and Epicurean philosophers heard words like "repentance, forgiveness and resurrection from the dead" from the mouth of the apostle! So should those around you and me!

BE READY TO SUFFER FOR YOUR FAITH!

Some of the philosophers called Paul a "talker" and mocked the resurrection from the dead. In one issue of Charlie Hebdo magazine, cartoonist Renald Luzier (Luz) caricatured love in the Holy Trinity in a filthy pose in order to mock faith in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. But Paul resented more than the philosophers' mockery or abandonment from those who should have encouraged him with their presence. Paul was even cast as an offering. Or, in the words of Richard Wurmbrand: "The guards forbade us at all costs to preach to the other prisoners. We knew that if we were discovered, we would receive a beating equal to death. Some of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted the conditions imposed by the Communists. We had a deal: we preached, they beat us. We were happy preaching, they were happy beating us, so everybody was happy!"

***“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you,
and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me”***

Associate professor Dr. Dan Botică

Meet our professors!



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I am driven by the desire to share my musical knowledge with students, leading them to understand music as a science and an art simultaneously.

PROFESSOR TEODOR CACIORA

There have been several events in my life that have set me on the path of church service.

My parents - who gave me instruments such as a mandolin, guitar, cello, double bass, piano, and organ.

Church ministers who were my role models - Serfezi Alexandru and Iovan Miclea.

Musical personalities from Iasi - Sabin Păutza, Vasile Spătărelu, and others.

But in particular, my uncle, Pastor Ieremia Hodoroabă, encouraged me to form the Pro Deum choir as a means of musical service at religious broadcasts in Monte Carlo and beyond.

I got to know Emanuel University through Dr. Nicolae Bica, a professional of musical art, who found me in a secular school and gave me a new opportunity to use my musical and artistic knowledge in the service of God.

I am driven by the desire to share my musical knowledge with students, leading them to understand music as a science and an art simultaneously. The two cannot be separated, for in Creation, God has allowed the sounds and beauty of harmonies to be governed by the most beautiful and precise numerical relationships.

My wife is a music teacher and sang in the choir of the Arad Philharmonic. We have two daughters, each with three children. The daughters and sons-in-law are music teachers, and this is the way we want the grandchildren to go. We all serve in Love Baptist Church in Arad as conductors, pianists, and organists.

Stories of Faith



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I am grateful to God that I study in a university [...] in which Christ's ambassadors prepare themselves to be ready to represent Him with honor in various areas of society!

IONUȚ BOGDAN IANCU,
PASTORAL THEOLOGY II

I am grateful to God that I study in a university where professors and students alike actively, diligently, and passionately strive not only for excellence in knowledge but also for excellence in character. This harmonious blending makes Emmanuel University a community of integrity, excellence, and passion. It is a setting in which Christ's ambassadors prepare themselves to be ready to represent Him with honor in various areas of society!

Ionuț Bogdan Iancu, Pastoral Theology II

Countryside Mission 2023

Dear collaborators, students, professors, and friends of Emanuel University,

With God's help, from July 16-23, 2023, three teams of Emanuel University students and dear brothers from the United States of America will conduct evangelism, VBS, and relief work in the Republic of Moldova, Scornicești (OT) and Satu Nou (BC) as part of the Countryside Mission. It is a very intense spiritual struggle for people to come "out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9), and we invite you wholeheartedly to support us in your prayers. The prayer requests we bring before you are that the Lord will keep the three teams from harm in the intense work they will be doing and that He will open the hearts of the people who will hear the Word preached! Thank you for your prayers and support!

For more information about this ministry, please visit the Countryside Mission website: <https://www.countrysideministries.org>.

Gaius Văduva, EUO Development Office, Director



Be part of the vision!

Throughout the year, the Scholarship Fund helps EU students by providing them with financial support as they study and volunteer. Gifts of all sizes bolster the collective strength of the Scholarship Fund and give the students the opportunity to focus on becoming the Christian teachers, musicians, social workers, business and IT leaders, and missionaries which the world so desperately needs. You can help them by joining the group of people who faithfully have financially supported the Scholarship Fund.

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