



Talks by Chris Castaldo

Embodying and Communicating the Gospel

Because God has given his Church the greatest message in the world, we, of all people, should be the finest communicators. Unfortunately, due to a dearth of attention and training, most evangelicals are unable to clearly articulate their faith.

According to a recent National Barna Survey, fifty-five percent of American adults who identify as “Born Again” have actually shared their faith in the last twelve months. Among them, those who feel competent in doing so are miniscule. This session, in addition to clarifying the nature and purpose of gospel outreach, seeks to help evangelicals relate the message of Christ in ways that are winsome, relevant, and compelling.

Understanding and Relating to Catholics

This talk is designed to provide perspective in three major areas: the teachings of the Catholic Church, the types of Catholic people in America, and practical suggestions for approaching Catholic friends and loved ones with the gospel. The last third of the session is reserved for Q&A.

- 1.) Fundamental Similarities & Differences of Belief
- 2.) Three Types of Catholics in America
- 3.) Approaching Conversations with Catholics
- 4.) Questions & Answers

Testimony

We all feel some responsibility to grasp life’s purpose. It’s a rare person indeed who doesn’t arise from the pillow in the morning and occasionally wonder *what’s it all about?* Or maybe it comes while looking at the funeral casket of a loved one. The question of purpose is critical for everyone who has a pulse, to say nothing of those who believe that the unexamined life is not worth living. In this session Chris shares his story of seeking life’s purpose through transcendental meditation, walking on burning coals, and numerous other colorful experiences before he was found by Christ.

Encountering God: Isaiah 6:1-8

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us,” according to A.W. Tozer in his classic book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*. We generally recognize this truth, and yet there remains a margin for improvement in our consistent application of it. This message connects the dots between God’s revelation in Scripture and the gospel-centered lives that we seek to live on a daily basis.

Image is Everything: 1 Cor 4:1-6

The enterprise of developing a popular image is vital to Americans. Whether it drives by on a bus or assaults us through a pop-up window, image anxiety is everywhere. It is especially obvious in shopping malls, which have become places of worship not unlike ancient temples or medieval cathedrals. This message provides perspective on how the image of Christ shines through men and women to challenge and transform the image consciousness of the world.

Speaking requests may be directed to Chris.Castaldo@Wheaton.edu. Information about the Ministry of Gospel Renewal is available at www.chriscastaldo.com.

After eight years as Pastor of Outreach and Church Planting at College Church in Wheaton, Chris Castaldo now serves as the Director of the Ministry of Gospel Renewal for the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College. Chris is author of *Holy Ground: Walking with Jesus as a Former Catholic* (Zondervan, 2009) and a major contributor to *Journey’s of Faith* (Zondervan, January of 2012). Chris, his wife, Angela, and their four children live near Chicago.