



Synergism for a Lifestyle of Change

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."



STEWARDS FOR NEW LIFE



A Word For Christmas by Sam Brink

As a child I remember scenes from my life that went something like this. I would be promised something that I really wanted. After hearing the promise I would say something like this: "You mean it?" And the person making the promise usually said, "You've got my word on it." Hearing that, I was more assured that the promise would come true. There is something about a person's word that assures you of the truth of the matter.

In this Christmas season, many people are in need of hearing an assuring word. They want to know if life will be all right for them once again. They want to hear that what they do is not in vain. They want to know if there is a "balm in Gilead." They want to know if they can be loved even if they feel unlovable. They want to know if there is some greater purpose to life than all this running around.

As disciples, we are called to be "stewards of the manifold grace of God (I Peter 4:10)." We have a *Word* to share that will assure all the people of the world. The *Word* is Jesus! In knowing Jesus, there is meaning for life and hope for a mood of despair. In Jesus we find peace for a troubled world and life.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." This Christmas be a faithful steward of the Word.



FACTS OF LIFE

A Barna Research survey found:

- 9 out of 10 people own a bible.
- That only one third of adults could define the term 'the gospel'.
- 7 out of 10 people had no clue what 'John 3:16' meant.
- Less than half of the people who describe themselves as Christian also describe themselves as "absolutely committed to the Christian faith."
- Only 7% of people identify spiritual wholeness and development as the factor that will produce a successful life.
- Lawyers, real estate agents and actors all have a better image than do evangelicals in the eyes of non-Christian Americans.

FOR MORE

INFORMATION

- www.Barna.org for more research around the state of the church in America today.
- www.gospelcom.net/guide/resources/jargon.php – an article about how insider language excludes people.
- www.nationalministries.org/mission/evangelism/ - open up your world to evangelism ABC style.
- Go to http://www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/releases/mindset_2007.html to find out how "today's" generation thinks and talks.
- www.outreachmagazine.com/current_issue/NOV_DEC/Language.html – helps you look at your passion for, and understanding of, biblical evangelism.

STEWARDSHIP

IN ACTION

Sometimes people don't want to listen to us because we use the wrong "words." Religious language can sometimes turn people off. Try this exercise with your family or small group – *create a "cliché Lexicon to be avoided."*

- Begin by having someone in your family or group write out the Christmas story and what it means for you.
 - Take another sheet of paper and draw two columns.
 - In one column, write down every Christian or otherwise religious word or phrase used in your telling of the story.
 - In the second column, redefine the terms using fresh vocabulary.
 - Retell the Christmas story using the "fresh" vocabulary.
- After you feel comfortable with the story, be a good steward of the Word and share it with someone outside of your faith circle.



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