



A SEEKER'S TOP TEN

By Kurt von Schleicher

One of the earliest things a minister should do when he leaves college and settles in a country town or village is to begin open-air speaking. —Charles Spurgeon

What are open-sinners who are truly seeking, looking for from righteous fishers of men? You really couldn't, but if you could read their minds... you'd probably hear the following:

10. I don't really care how much you know, until I know how much you really care! Christian, you don't have to be perfect before me, in fact, hearing about some of your struggles and how God is helping you through them, makes you somehow seem more real. I like it when people are genuine, honest and a bit vulnerable.
9. Have compassion for me. Please don't condemn me when my life's a big mess! Hey, I'll respect you if you don't spend so much time with me ...to the point where I'm pulling you down spiritually or influencing you back into a life of sin. But if you don't like me enough to hang out with me at all, or if you primarily go to work on cleaning-up my bad behavior and communication, I'll be turned off big time! Remember, until I have a new nature in me, I'm "into sinning!" The reason we sinners sin, is 'cause we're sinners—get it? The Holy Spirit will remind you that God sanctifies those He's made alive, you don't. Jesus catches His fish so to speak... and then He cleans them. Why would it be so important for you to moralize me before I'm even caught?
8. Never embarrass me before my friends. You'd also do well to show respect by first asking for permission to tell me about your Jesus or the Bible. Don't just push the whole deal on me like I'm some kind of religious project. Talk with me, (not at me or down your nose to me). Listen to me carefully without interrupting – without jumping in to answer my questions before I finish asking them. Let me be the one to verbally finish-off my sentences, rather than you assisting me. Make a conscious effort to sincerely find out about my world before you expect me to become interested in yours!
7. Please avoid using churchy or theological terms in your explanation. Express truth in a fresh way—in words that I can understand. I really don't mind if you use Bible terms either, just as long as you define what they mean in simple terms.

6. With all due respect, lighten up and have a sense of humor. I'm very intrigued with a Christianity that can laugh and be enjoyed, rather than "endured." Infectious joy spring from a strong, biblical prayer-life draws me in, almost as much as sincere, supernatural love.
5. For the most part, I have no desire to hear about your denomination, thrilling church programs, energetic, anointed preacher, or favorite TV ministries, even if they are somewhat cool to you. It might not seem like it, but I am looking for caring people who really love Jesus full-on ...with more than mere lip service! (Chances are...) I've been burnt or bored-out-of-my-gourd in church situations in the past. In a non-presumptuous or overbearing way, talk about the beauty of Jesus – you know, who He is, what He did and why it matters.
4. Don't just enthusiastically tell me about your relationship with this Jesus; show me your faith by selflessly living like Him—you know lovingly serving others and stuff. I can recognize authenticity—it grabs my attention in a large way! But on the other hand, don't just live-out your faith before me; tactfully ask me root-problem-pinpointing type of questions and tell me about what really happened to you ..quoting key Scriptures in a non-creepy way that address my needs. If I get kind of a guilty look on my face, don't allow me to divert or smoke-screen you off onto some lame rabbit trail just to keep attention off of my wrong-doin's. Tip: I don't really want you to let anyone in on this, but there are moments when I can stomach certain doses of Bible info and feel reluctantly curious about the meaning of life. Just back off before I get irritated. Give me an easy out... then I might be back for more ..earlier than you expect.
3. Let me tell you how I spell "love," **T - I - M - E**—take your time in building relationship with me. Fast is slow and slow is fast. If you want to become my friend take your time, don't rush me. (Chances are I'm presently unripe for the picking...) Don't tell me everything you know all at once, 'cause I don't much care! Allow me the space I need to evaluate the cost—the time to let your God work in my life. But then again, don't give me one minute more than I need either. When the time is right—and you should know when it is—just ask me outright if I'm ready to take hold of this "endless experience of Life."
2. Clearly explain to me how God can make a difference in my DAILY LIFE, not just at church on Sundays. "IF" I'm going to be a Christian, I want it to work everywhere I go—in real life 24/7/365.
1. Don't take my laughter, mean jokes or harassment of your belief-system too seriously. Hanging out with my demons and close friends who are always-on-the-take is growing WAY MOLDY! Man, earn your P.H.D.—*pray hard daily* ...for me, for my party-buds, for my hurting, dysfunctional family, for my pervert-polluted world. In a down-to-earth, non-televangelastic, endearing way that I can relate to, consistently make Jesus Christ real to us! Yes, in a non-spooky, practical way, show me how to personally know Jesus from His Word ...and chances are I'll come around to meeting Him, too.

Are you open and willing that God use you today? Ask Him to use you as you step out in faith! The Bible says, ***"...if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear"*** (1 Pet. 3:15-16).

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