

November 19, 2017
Conversations: Listen More, Talk Less
Part 1: Understanding Non-Believers
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1. Are your conversations predictable? What is one word that describes them?
2. Have you felt the Spirit producing the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in your life? How will this fruit (each a segment like an orange perhaps) manifest itself in our conversations?
3. How does someone's conduct affect your willingness to listen to him or her?
4. It's been said that wait staff in restaurants don't like Sundays when they have a lot of church goers/Christians because they tip so poorly, sometimes not at all. How else have some Christians treated wait staff unkindly?
5. What are ways Christians misrepresent Jesus?
6. Do you recall some of the things the posters said on the protesters slide Travis showed? What are other hateful protest signs you've seen on some sort of media? What do the people holding them hope to accomplish? Is it anything good and is that a possibility?
7. Have you ever seen a Facebook post by a Christian that was not kind or wise? What effect does that have on unbelievers? Or believers?
8. Why do you think some Christians are so offended that non-Christians don't act like Jesus?
9. Tell about one poignant or special time in your story of faith.
10. Do you know of a time Christians turned off non-Christians who came to church?
11. Do you think it's legitimate that so many interpret scripture in various ways, taking different things into account? How do you know your interpretation is correct? Is "black and white" always the correct way to view scripture. For instance, in I Corinthians 14:34-35, Paul says "women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak. . . ." (See NIV footnotes or other versions for different ways of looking at it.)
12. Christians hold many conflicting views, what must you believe to be a Christian? (Are there various opinions on even this?)
13. Read Matthew 22:34-40. Is what Jesus saying here guide enough for our conversations and our actions? Why or why not?