

1. Under the application to missions and evangelism, Coty said that we, like Paul, must preach the Gospel – and then the Word must change behavior. If we make changed behavior the subject of our message and send a mixed message, we distort the Gospel. Yet behavior must change eventually, as the Word has its effect.

Imagine that you are witnessing to a couple who are living together, though they are not married.

a) How would you speak to them if you were making changed behavior the subject of your message? How does this distort the Gospel, in this case?

b) Should you just speak and explain the outline of the Gospel – God, Man, Christ, Response – and never say anything about their behavior? Consider in your answer the need to deal with idols of our hearts in coming to Christ.

2. What weighty backpack is hindering you in running the race? What idols and/or sins are burdening you, that you have not let go? What lies of Satan have been effective in your life, to keep you ensnared and entangled with these idols and sins? How can we as a group work together effectively so that not one of us is hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Heb 3:13)?