

## Hindrances to our mission

### a) **Being overly self-conscious about reaching others:**

If we are too self-conscious about reaching others our actions and conversations may become ‘artificial’ and come across as such. Relax! Be natural! Try to ‘integrate’ your outreach rather than tack it on as an additional ‘module’ of Christian living.

### b) **Believing that the only valid means of promoting the gospel is to tell it:**

The best kept secret of Christian mission is that the New Testament lists a whole range of activities which advance the gospel. Our silence about these makes those of us without the ‘gift of the gab’ feel inadequate in the task of reaching out. Emphasising them, on the other hand, frees all of us to promote the gospel in whatever ways we can.

### c) **Believing that if we can say *something* about the gospel we must say *everything* about it:**

The reality is, most of our gospel opportunities will be ‘in passing’, brief casual comments and explanations in everyday conversation. If we don’t prepare for these fleeting, conversational opportunities, we may find ourselves ‘downloading’ our entire message on the unsuspecting inquirer. This makes for a rather forced conversation, and it may actually demote the gospel in your listener’s mind rather than promote it.

### d) **Believing the embarrassment-factor:**

Sometimes we keep quiet about our faith because we half believe the lie that non-Christians think we Christians are ‘weird’. It is true that the media occasionally portrays Christians in a slightly ‘odd-ball’ light. But the reality is, the world’s view of the Christian is far less negative than we think. One can’t help thinking that this lie originates from a source more subtle and sinister than simply ‘the media’. Perhaps Satan, in his capacity as the father of lies, has tricked us into an overly negative impression of how we are viewed by others in order to keep us from being more natural and open about our faith.

### e) **Apathy:**

This is perhaps obvious. Sometimes we don’t get involved in reaching out simply because we don’t love people enough, or perhaps because we aren’t as captivated by the gospel message as we should be. The remedy is simple: repent! It is unconscionable for us to believe that “God so loved the world that he sent his only Son” and yet remain unconcerned about promoting this news to others.