



THE RECONNECT **RESOURCE:**

Why We're Bringing God Into Every Conversation

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It was only a murmur, “what’s wrong with the world?” I could have ignored the comment and I could have ignored him. I had my own table, my own coffee, my own work. I could have, but I couldn’t. I couldn’t stop myself from glancing over to see what provoked him to ask one of the ultimate questions. He was reading something on his iPad. I couldn’t see it. I looked at him intently, with interest and compassion and asked, “what now?”

He looked up and with only a moment’s hesitation shared the latest horror story passing as news across his social media feed. It was not the kind of news anyone ever wants to hear and yet it is the kind of news we hear every day. After giving me the gist of the latest version of man’s inhumanity to man, he asked again with a sense of grief and anger and total defeat, “what’s wrong with the world?” Then he added, “what’s wrong with us?”

Wide open door. I uttered a brief silent prayer and, without moving any closer physically, I engaged in one of the deepest conversations I’ve ever had with another person.

“You’re asking a really big question and I think it has a really big answer - but let me ask you first, are you okay?”

You see, the issues of the world are what they are and the propositional answers related to God and the cosmos and Creation and the Fall and redemption through Christ are all incredibly import-

ant. But—sitting before me was a person who was broken and grieving and, I suspected, lost. Turning on the hi-beams and giving him the double barrel Truth that surpasses all understanding might have just driven him further back into the cave.

His eyes fell and within seconds so did the tears. His wife had left and taken his little girl and he didn’t have the money for a good attorney and he felt like a failure and his work was suddenly meaningless and his friends were telling him to get revenge but he loved her and he just wanted her back. “What’s wrong with the world” out there is almost always a recognition of the wrongness of the world right here.

I didn’t have all the answers to all those questions but I had an hour to listen. I closed my laptop, leaned in and just let him process. I asked strategic questions that led him to make two calls: one to his dad, who he’d been too embarrassed to call but ended up being exactly the person he needed, and the other call was to a guy he’d known in college who was a Christian. I didn’t lead him to the Lord, but I bore faithful witness to the reality of God who cares and consoles and counsels and offers hope.

People around us are asking big questions every day. As Christians, we have the Truth and are called to share it. We are the Ambassadors of Jesus Christ, commissioned to enter the reality of the world and bring Him into the conversation. The question is, are we willing and ready to do that?



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RECONNECTING THE ETERNAL WITH THE EVERYDAY

I think most people are missing 99% of what's actually happening in the world. God is present and active and working and interested, but most people just simply ignore Him while others are utterly ignorant of Him. My concern is focused on the people who think they know and don't, or who know but don't acknowledge. That last group of people—who know God is present and active but don't actually acknowledge Him with their lives—they're living as functional atheists and bearing active false witness.

Take our obsession with identity as an example. The identity conversation is a big one in our culture right now. Who are you is now joined by *what* are you? Even a generation ago I would not have had to begin with the recognition that I'm human nor female. Now, both are up for debate in a world disconnected from reality. For the Christian the answer begins and ends not with the self but with another: Jesus Christ. As a Christian I know I'm already dead. (Galatians 2:20). If you've given your life to the one who gave His life for you, then what else is there to do but let Him do whatever He wants with every breath you have? What motivates me every morning is to live that out and then, hopefully get Christians to start thinking and living out their true identity—as Ambassadors of the Kingdom of God in the kingdoms of this world. Once a person's identity is realigned with Christ—everything else changes from there.

WHO WE ARE AND WHO WE ARE NOT

We don't do a radio show to do a radio show. Ultimately, radio is a platform—it is a means—and it is the platform God has given us at this point in time. I would be just as happy communicating to eight



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people around a Bible study as 80,000 in an arena. The multiplication and impact of one of those 8 may be greater in God's economy than the 80,000 combined. So, we do a radio show because we want God's Word to be proclaimed and we want every Christian to start seeing His perspective on the headlines of the day and be mobilized to share that perspective in their circles of influence.

When it comes to "talk radio," we typically think about bringing a certain perspective to the news of the day. I'm not really interested in having a 'conservative' argument or 'liberal' argument. I recognize that many of my ideas align with folks who would consider themselves conservative, but if it's not a distinctively Christian message in my view, we're wasting the airtime because there's enough conservative talk out there. There's a lot of distinctively Christian teaching on the radio but not enough distinctively Christian talk radio, bringing the mind of Christ to bear on the news of the day.

What is distinctively Christian? Well, you could take any issue, and there's a conservative approach to it and there's a liberal approach to it. Then there's a distinctively Christian approach to it, and it may not neatly align with either. My concern is that people don't know the difference at all. So our goal is to get people thinking about what they're thinking about, reading other headlines, and doing so with a Christian worldview, and then being the Ambassador of Jesus Christ who takes God back into the conversation.

Because ultimately, people don't need a piece of our minds— they need the peace of the Mind of Christ. When God's perspective is missing from a conversation it is because His people have chosen to remain silently on the sidelines or worse, present a perspective that is not distinctively Christian, or present their case in a way that does not honor Jesus.

LOOKING FORWARD: MOMENT OF TRUTH

Questions about truth and its antithesis have never been more at the fore of cultural conversations. What some hold as true is not aligned with reality and what some espouse as true is quite the opposite. I see this as a moment of truth for Christians in the American culture. We must be found to be trustworthy purveyors of the Truth, taking every opportunity to speak the Truth in ways that honor Jesus.

There is confusion about who God is, how He is involved in human history, how He uses nation states and people of power. There is also ongoing confusion in our culture about identity, love, grace, race, justice, authority, and the appropriate roles of the Church and the State. Into all these matters, we speak Truth.

While others will do everything they can to lie and breed hatred, we will stand for Truth, and speak it in love, no matter the cost.

We use our platforms to speak into each of those conversations, bringing the mind of Christ to bear on the matters of the day. We are standing in a moment of Truth that will reverberate around the world for generations.

If this sounds like you, we invite you to join the conversation by connecting with us.

- Carmen



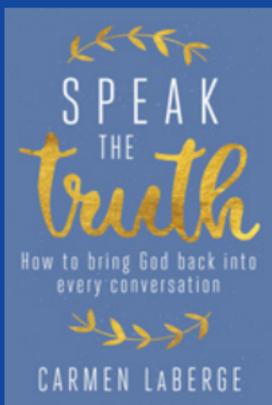
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ABOUT CARMEN

Carmen LaBerge is a writer, speaker and host of the daily Christian talk radio show, *Connecting Faith with Carmen LaBerge*. Through her ministry, she seeks to mobilize Christians to get off the sidelines and into the cultural conversations of the day in ways that honor Jesus.

Carmen is a graduate of the University of Florida with an M.Div. from Princeton. She lives near Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and family.



WANT TO GO DEEPER?

Carmen's book *Speak Truth: How to bring God back into every conversation* gives believers both the confidence to speak the truth and the tools to re-engage the culture.



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and connect with us online or on social media:

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