WHY THE RECONNECTOR?

We talk with people, to people, about people and over people. From social media to 24/7 news, we live in a noisy world. Where do Christ followers fit in this picture, and how do we make a difference?

This new resource is for YOU—to equip and inform you to speak into conversations with the Truth in ways that glorify God. Every story, every photo, every conversation starter is meant for YOU to use in daily interactions: in the grocery store, during your commute, at home during mealtimes, at the office, at church. Anywhere you are, we hope you will remember to put God back in His place, where He belongs, right in the middle of every conversation. Join us in the pursuit of Truth and refreshing conversations!

About The Reconnect & You

Our vision is to mobilize every Christian to get off the sidelines and into the cultural conversations of the day in ways that honor Jesus.

Our Shared Mission

While we all fail due to our humanity, we want to encourage respectful, civil, Christ-honoring discussion. This newsletter is for you and designed to equip you for conversations with others.

Become a Reconnector

Read and share this newsletter with others. Clip or snap an image of the Conversation Starter cards on pages 3-4. Visit ReconnectwithCarmen.com. Connect with us and others like you on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Send us your questions, your own conversation starters, your trials and/or errors in conversations. Share the resources and help others learn and grow as we reconnect the eternal with the everyday.

To continue receiving the Reconnector, click here to make your monthly gift.
There was a time when I approached the issues, the threats to what I knew was right, with what I now see was less than love. Three shifts were necessary to arrive at the place where today I can genuinely engage any person about any matter with totally honest Truth in total love. The three shifts were:

1. Looking at the person, not the issue;
2. Asking God to give me His perspective on the person—and the issue;
3. Recognizing my role as God’s agent of grace, keeping a divine appointment God had set, for which God had an agenda, and in which God would be faithful to speak if I would simply submit.

I have learned that whatever the presenting issue, God is the real issue. This person—no matter what adjectives are used to describe him—is a child of God and is presently at odds with the Father. Whatever the presenting issue, the real issue is always the same. The brokenness of the self, division in the relationship, hostility toward righteousness, bad fruit—it’s really all one issue: sin. Once I remind myself that this person is precious to God and currently living at enmity with Him, once I see the nature of a soul held captive in a war raging over eternity, my attitude and my approach is transformed. That’s how God gets back into every conversation—through you and me.

This is a short excerpt from my book, Speak the Truth, available September 25, 2017. I wrote this book because I contend Christians should be leading the conversations in culture, bringing the mind of Christ to bear on the matters of the day, as ministers of reconciliation. With this book, we are talking about changing the conversation by changing every conversation.

WE’D LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US!
You can pre-order the book today on Amazon by clicking here. Or become a Reconnector by clicking here. And get the book free!
CONVERSATION STARTERS

How do we enter into conversations as ambassadors of Jesus Christ and speak His mind on the matters the day? Let’s face it, people don’t need another piece of our mind—what they need is the peace of the mind of Christ—and you’re just the person to give it to them! These conversation cards are a practical tool to equip you to do this wherever you are, with whomever God puts in your life.

The cards begin with the connecting point—an opportunity in the culture giving you an “in” to speak Truth into the conversation. The disconnect unmasks the underlying issue at stake—the brokenness of sin presented in this specific situation. Then, the reconnect is the Christian worldview—the goodness and beauty of the gospel applied. On the back, we’ve included some ways to keep the conversation going with questions, bullet points, and life application.

IS TRUTH DEAD?

The Connecting Point
Time magazine’s April 3, 2017, cover asks the question “Is Truth dead?” fifty years after the infamous 1966 cover asked “Is God Dead?” From fake news stories to alternative facts, our culture is having conversations about truth.

The Disconnect
The “post-truth” culture is a result of rejecting absolutes, authority, and meaning that come from knowing the living God. Many believe the lie of individualized truth, as if it can be constructed from experiences, relationships, and ideas.

The Reconnect, a Christian Worldview Response
As Christians, we know truth is not just a concept, but a person. We walk with the One who is the Truth (John 14:6). We stand with Him in opposition to the lies and the Father of Lies who even now is deceiving so many (John 8:44).

THE WAR ON WOMEN

The Connecting Point
Following the 2016 presidential election, the U.S. witnessed the largest ever one-day political march. Among other pronouncements, organizers of The Women’s March equated being pro-woman with being pro-abortion.

The Disconnect
The prevailing expression of feminism today is one of absolute autonomy wherein the self is the highest authority, functionally dethroning God. Absolute feminist autonomy says women flourish only when every other right (like that of the life of the baby) is subordinated to their will.

The Reconnect, a Christian Worldview Response
Autonomy is a lie. The witness of Scripture says that God grants, governs, measures, sustains, redeems, and fulfills life (Col. 1:17). When we submit to Him, we are acknowledging the reality of His sovereignty.
ON THE WEB FOR YOU

HOW CAN WE VIEW SCIENCE AND IS THERE ROOM FOR FAITH?
More than trial and error, science makes a prediction, called a hypothesis, and then tests that prediction against reality. Anyone in the research field understands science fails far more often than it succeeds. But that is the process. Even when the scientific process arrives at a conclusion, that finding is understood to hold only until reality disproves it. As people of faith, with science in the appropriate place as a method of inquiry, we need not fear or be antagonistic toward it. Jennifer Wiseman, an astrophysicist and Christian, encourages us that it is a wonderful gift. “Consider scientific discoveries... as something to be grateful for, something to take time to let it instill a sense of wonder and awe and praise.” We can appreciate scientific knowledge as one piece in the tapestry of the created world to the glory of our Creator.
Find more on this topic in: “Science and belief” at ReconnectwithCarmen.com

Keep the Conversation Going
Questions to ask: Is it possible to know something as absolutely true? What do we do with the truth once we know it? What does that mean for life’s big questions?

Communicate
There is a war on women, but this isn’t it. There are situations where women are subjected in ungodly ways. But the autonomy promised by feminism today is an empty promise. The value of a woman does not come from avoiding men or rejecting God. It comes from knowing she’s made in the image of God and called to be His child in Jesus Christ.

Apply
Consider how you can play a part in fighting the real war on women. Millions of women die each year to gender-selection abortion and infanticide, forced abortion, neglect, violence against women (like honor killings), lack of maternal care, and other causes.
For more click here or here.
What You’re Saying:

“Carmen’s style is so infectious. I have gotten involved with IraqiChristianrelief.org. I have begun using her advice to look for creative ways to bring God into every conversation. It is really fun.”
- Christine, Listener in Florida

“Love the spiritual encouragement on civic issues. Bold new way to both witness and exhort.”
- Anonymous listener

“Outstanding podcast: current, savvy and empowering for Christians who want to speak faith in a world that lacks the Word. Guests are well researched and leaders in the chosen area or topic.”
- Emily, podcast listener

“Carmen is an extraordinary grace-filled communicator whose messages each day have been both challenging and entertaining, a powerful combination when it comes to national radio syndication. She is filling a void in the Christian Teaching and Talk landscape throughout the United States.”
- Chris Gould, Vice President National Program Development for Salem

Got a minute?

We recently launched a brand new resource: Reconnect One. This may be the fastest 60 seconds on radio! In just one minute, Carmen shares encouragement or a challenge, but always meaningful content to help YOU find ways to engage our culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And you can find them all posted online!

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Ah, the good old days. Those were when exactly? And exactly for whom were they good? The good old days for which we pine were only good for those who possessed wealth, power, and control. Which is to say the good old days were not so good for everyone. Good is always relative - well, except for the one time when it was not.

To really get back to the good old days we have to go all the way back. The next time you hear someone use the phrase “good old days,” walk them right back to the real good old days in Genesis chapter 1, where God saw what He had made and declared it to be ‘good.’ Because with the fall of humanity, sin has marred every day since. Can we get back to a time when things were good? We have to go forward into God’s redemptive plan for history. That’s right: we can only go back to the good old days by going forward into the glory God offers. And there’s only one way to get there—through a Friday called good and a man called Jesus.

For more, click here.
INTERVIEW WITH LEE STROBEL

The truth does not fear questions nor questioners. Christianity invites the skeptic, the doubter, and the weary to come and seek—seek and you will find.

The resurrection story of Easter, upon which the power and hope of Christianity hangs, invites us to ask not just how, but also why. Why is a different type of question. It is the question of faith. It is the question to which we must get in order to have any meaningful conversation about morals, values, and conscience because why is the question of motivation.

In The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel was a skeptic looking to disprove the factual claims of Christ. He makes a thorough journalistic investigation of the Christian claims that Jesus Christ bodily rose from the dead.

As a legal editor at The Chicago Tribune, he asks all the right empirical questions: who, what, when, where, how? He digs into all the right disciplines: reliability of witness accounts, multiple attestations, proof of actual physical death, the possibility of mass hallucination, etc. Eventually, Strobel comes to the end of the questions that would disprove the validity of the resurrection and must face the possibility that it’s actually true.

Listen to the interview here.