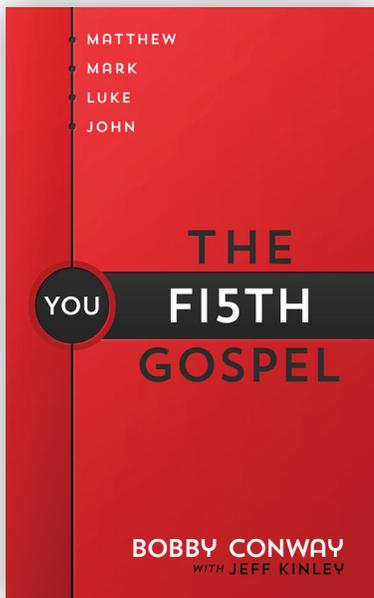


THE FIFTH GOSPEL

LIVING OUT THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE



Most Christians are familiar with the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But do you know that there is actually a fifth gospel? Pastor and author Bobby Conway says that the fifth gospel is *you*.

“Many of today’s Christ followers are either riddled with guilt for not preaching the Gospel or so silent that no one really knows they’re a Christian,” says Conway, author of the new book, *The Fifth Gospel*. “And the vast majority of us don’t have a clue about communicating our faith and translating it through a lifestyle that actually makes sense to the average person.”

Conway, pastor of Life Fellowship Church in Charlotte, NC, and founder of *The One-Minute Apologist*, believes that Christians are one of the greatest convincers or de-convincers of Christianity. He argues that Christians need to go beyond reading the Gospels, and begin to actually live them out.

“From the very beginning, Jesus intended His truth and character to be revealed, not only through the printed page, but in the lives of His followers,” says Conway.

“It’s this largely unknown, incarnated gospel that our world knows so little about.”

To that end, in *The Fifth Gospel*, Conway lays out an apologetic for why Christianity is real, and how Christians can live out its truths in daily life. He encourages believers to ask whether they really believe that people need Christ, and, if they’re willing to stand for Him in a so-called post-modern society that embraces pluralism, even in the church.

“As subtle forms of pluralism creep into the Christian faith, we become missionally impotent,” says Conway. “For why would you take the effort to share Jesus with someone if your beliefs aren’t any more true or valid than theirs? Being bold about Christ and His claims requires a confident, courageous faith and the ability to endure what people might think of you.”

He also looks at what it means to be an image bearer of Christ, what common idols we have in our life, how to experience true joy, why suffering happens, what it means to be a “fool for Christ,” and what the cost is for following Him. Conway warns though against falling into a form of lifestyle evangelism that encourages living out your Christianity but never really saying anything about it.

“God wants Christians to *live* the word and *share* the word,” says Conway. “To show and tell what they have seen and heard. To simply live a good Christian life isn’t enough. By living out the Gospel, we gain credibility. By verbalizing the Gospel, we gain clarity.”

Bobby Conway is lead pastor of Life Fellowship Church near Charlotte, NC. He is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary (ThM) and Southern Evangelical Seminary (DMin) and the author of *Hell, Rob Bell, and What Happens When People Die*. Bobby is also the founder and host of the *One-Minute Apologist* (www.oneminuteapologist.com). In addition, he and his wife, Heather, serve on the Family Life “Weekend to Remember” marriage conference speaking team.



BOBBY CONWAY

Bobby Conway is lead pastor of Life Fellowship Church near Charlotte, NC, and founder and host of *The One-Minute Apologist*. He also serves alongside his wife on the Family Life “Weekend to Remember” marriage conference speaking team, traveling the country helping couples experience God’s best in their marriages.

Bobby grew up in California, where he says he was “summa cum laude in sin.” If he had to give you a list of words to describe his life before becoming a Christian it would look like this: insecure, angry, confused, uneducated, promiscuous, boozier, addictive, foolish, rebellious, and a decent baseball player. Obviously, he says, a recipe for disaster.

When he was 19 and living in southern California, his college baseball teammate took him to hear an evangelist by the name of Greg Laurie. Bobby resonated with Greg—a recovering pothead, laid back, and a blue jean wearing, Bible teaching evangelist, and he soon became a follower of Jesus.

After becoming a Christian and cleaning up his life, Bobby developed such a passion for God that he couldn’t imagine doing anything but being in full-time ministry. He hung up the cleats and headed off to Conway, Arkansas where he would eventually go to Bible college. During his time in Arkansas, he served as a staff evangelist and a teaching pastor. With a desire to be better equipped for ministry, he went to Dallas Theological Seminary and earned a Master of Theology degree. He also has a Doctorate of Ministry in Apologetics from Southern Evangelical Seminary and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Birmingham (England) in the philosophy of religion department.

Bobby is also the founder and host of the rapidly-growing ministry *The One-Minute Apologist*, which is found on YouTube and on his Web site. He provides quick, credible answers to apologetic questions that resource people with a hunger to defend their Christian faith. At the OneMinuteApologist.com, he posts a new apologetic answer video five days per week. These videos often include interviews with some of the world’s leading Christian apologists like William Lane Craig, Josh McDowell, Hank Hanegraaff, JP Moreland, Norman Geisler, Frank Turek, and many more.

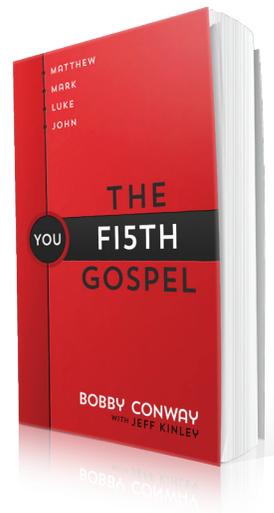
His first book, *Hell, Rob Bell and What Happens When People Die*, offers a compelling and concise explanation of hell, the afterlife, and a loving God. His conclusion: Everyone who believes and trusts in Christ has no need to fear the anguish of hell but can confidently anticipate the eternal joy of heaven.

His newest book, *The Fifth Gospel*, releases on August 1, 2014 from Harvest House.

Bobby and his wife, Heather, have two children, Dawson and Haley. He enjoys date nights with Heather, family time with his kids, traveling and reading lots of books that many people would describe as boring! More information can be found at his Web site: www.bobbyconwayonline.com and at www.oneminuteapologist.com.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Bobby, as Christians, we know about the four Gospels in the New Testament. But, can you define what you mean by a Fifth Gospel?
- Why do you think people have a generally skewed mental image of God?
- How do we respond to the person who says, “Christians are fake, plastic people in a pretend world?”
- How do we show Jesus to people who may have very strong, negative opinions about Christians?
- You say that ultimately Christians don’t have an image problem, but a romance problem. Can you explain what you mean by this?
- You include a quote in the book from Gandhi who said, “I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” Do you think this is a common thought among nonbelievers?
- What are some of the biggest objections nonbelievers have to Christianity?
- What does it look like to live as a Fifth-Gospel Christian?
- Do you believe our churches are encouraging us to live as Fifth-Gospel Christians or do they only make our faith comfortable?
- What are some common idols that both believers and nonbelievers struggle with?
- You write that idol worship is a present reality that’s more alive than ever before. Really?
- What does it mean to suffer?
- As Americans, we often highly devalue weakness. But as believers, it’s in our weakness that Christ is made strong. What does this look like?
- What are some ways the church can do a better job of loving the world around it?
- What does true lifestyle evangelism look like?
- You also have a chapter on the Holy Spirit. How does drawing on His power help a person to be a Fifth-Gospel Christian?



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INTERVIEW TOPICS FOR BOBBY CONWAY

Here are some suggested interview topics you might consider for an interview with Bobby:

The Fifth-Gospel Christian

Most Christians know the Gospels as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But Bobby Conway says there's actually a fifth—our own lives. In this interview, Bobby will share what he means by the Fifth Gospel, what it looks like to live as a Fifth-Gospel Christian, and how to live an inspiring life that points others to Christ.

Game of Thrones: Idol Worship

In biblical times, idols were often visual. But today, while we may not melt gold to create a calf, we all struggle with idols of the heart. In this interview, Bobby will look at the nature of idolatry, what contemporary idols look like (Stuff? Food? Technology? Religion?), and how idol worship damages our ability to reflect Christ to a watching world.

Stop Pursuing Happiness and Experience True Joy

A quick search on Amazon reveals more than 900 books on happiness. From titles like “Instant Happy” to “The Happiness Book” and “The Happiness Project,” our culture is always seeking to live a happier life. But happiness, says Bobby, has to do with what's happening to us while joy is grounded in God, His Word, what He has done for us, and our anticipation of Christ's glorious return. In this interview, Bobby will share how the Bible commands us to be joyful, how joy begins and ends with God, common places we look for joy (that ultimately disappoint), and how joy is the natural result of being controlled by God's spirit.

Lifestyle Evangelism: More than just Living the Word

In support of lifestyle evangelism, people often quote St. Francis of Assisi who supposedly said, “Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary.” The only problem is he never said it and his writings don't reflect that kind of thinking. And, argues Bobby Conway, God wants believers to not only *live* the Word, but to *share* it. In this interview, Bobby will share what true lifestyle evangelism looks like, why it's critical that we verbally share our faith, and will address common fears about sharing our faith and how to overcome them.

Fools for Christ

Christians are quick to sing and talk about trusting God and following Him no matter what. But when He asks something odd, different, or uncomfortable of us, that's when things get a bit complicated. In this interview, Bobby will discuss several accounts from the Bible where people were fools for Christ (does the 5 loaves and fishes ring a bell?), explain why Christians shouldn't live like everyone else, and share how God distinguishes His followers by inviting them into the ridiculous.