

Q & A with Arron Chambers

Author of *Eats With Sinners*



Arron Chambers is the lead minister of Journey Christian Church in Greeley, Colorado. He is a contributing editor for *Christian Standard*, a coach, an inspirational speaker to thousands of people each year, the husband of a lovely wife, and the father of four beautiful kids.

1. What is your hope for this book, *Eats with Sinners*?

I hope it reintroduces people to Christ's primary method for connecting with people and that it makes evangelism less intimidating to the average Christian.

2. What prompted you to want to write on this topic? Why do you think Christians need to hear this message?

I realized that the evangelistic plan I was teaching people was much too complicated and...frankly...not very biblical. Once I started living "Eats with Sinners" and seeing how God was working through simple means, I HAD to share it with as many people as possible. In my experience, the average Christian thinks that evangelism requires memorizing tons of Scripture, presenting a 5-step plan, or handing out tracts to total strangers. I want Christians to know that evangelism can be as easy as eating with someone.

3. Why is evangelism so hard for people? What do you consider to be the hurdles and how do we get over them?

I think it's because we (Church leaders) have presented an over-complicated approach to evangelism—involving a complex presentation of Spiritual Laws, steps, and perfectly presented memorized Scriptures. I think some of the hurdles hindering evangelism are irrational fears of what might happen if we share our faith, a preference for our own comfort over the salvation of lost people, a misunderstanding of what evangelism is and is not, and a lack of intentionality with our relationships with lost people.

4. What advice would you give to someone who wants to share their faith, but doesn't know where to start?

Evangelism is simply an intentional relationship through which someone is introduced to Jesus Christ. Just invest time meeting with someone over coffee or a meal—tell them your story, ask to hear theirs, and just love them like Jesus loves them.

5. How do we actually love like Jesus loved? What are a few tips for getting started?

First, we need to see people. Jesus really saw people. Open our eyes and God will open our hearts soon thereafter. Second, go to where lost people are. I know, I know, we're surrounded by people who need Jesus, but here's the problem: too many Christians expect evangelism to happen only within the

church building, but the most effective opportunities for evangelism happen as we “go” to where lost people are and love them in the name of Jesus.

6. How do we help people let their guard down, so they can come to know the love of God and the hope of salvation?

The only way to help people let their guard down is through time (spend significant time with someone), trust (show them that they are truly important to you), and tenderness (love them sincerely in the name of Jesus).

7. In your book, *Eats with Sinners* you point readers toward a biblical model for evangelism-- building relationships one meal (or cup of coffee) at a time. Can you unpack that a little for us?

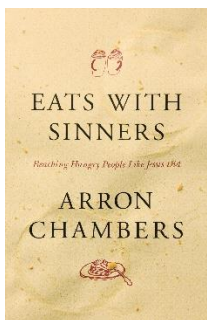
In this book, I want to reintroduce the Church to Christ’s primary method for connecting with and reaching people: eating with them. Eating with someone in the 1st Century was so much more than just a meal. It was an act of intimacy. The legalists hated Jesus because He was intentionally connecting (act of intimacy) with the outcasts of society and social pariahs. He ate with people modern Christians cross the street to avoid because He wanted them to eat with Him for all eternity.

8. If a church wanted to implement only one aspect of this approach to evangelism today, what would have the biggest immediate effect?

Look for easy opportunities to be more intentional with building relationships with lost people within the events already on the church calendar. For example...why not have that monthly fellowship dinner in a local park and set up bounce houses for the neighborhood kids? Why not ask your small groups to “sacrifice” one of their Sunday night meetings to host a block party for their neighbors in their cul de sac instead? Cancel your church Super Bowl party in the building and ask your members to host Super Bowl parties in their homes and invite their non-Christian friends?

9. What one lesson or message do you hope will resonate most with your readers?

The most powerful context for presenting the Gospel is a loving relationship.



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