

Script: 02. Essential Principles of Health Ministry (513 wds)

The following 3 foundational principles of health evangelism will enable you to build a powerful, effective health outreach:

- 1. Scriptural and scientific**
- 2. Sensible and balanced**
- 3. Personal and practical**

1. Scientific and Scriptural

Scientific: Accurate and factual science in health programming is critical.

Using good science in our programs provides an opportunity to reveal the goodness of our Creator and the truth of Bible teachings.

“True science and Inspiration are in perfect harmony.”
4T 484

Science, done right, leads to God.

Scriptural: A proper theology of health teaches risk reduction and cause/effect. However...

“Although sin and sickness are closely related, it is evident that not all sickness is directly traceable to transgression on the part of the sick...”

“Too often the innocent suffer for or with the guilty. Disabilities and sicknesses are not always directly due to sin...

“Not all suffering is a punishment for sin. To many, sickness and suffering are a sure sign of God’s disfavor, and conversely, they think that if nothing is troubling them, God is pleased with their general way of life...

“Such reasoning and prayers are not safe.” Compare Job with the antedeluvians. ML Andreassen, The Faith of Jesus, p. 180, 186.

2. Sensible and Balanced

Sensible: “We wish to present temperance and health reform from a Bible standpoint and to be very cautious not to go to extremes...

“Let us be careful not to graft into health reform one false shoot according to our own peculiar overstrained ideas and weave into it our own strong traits of character, making these as the voice of God, and passing judgment.” 3 SM 284

Balanced: Balanced programming ministers to the whole person.

DO:

- 1. Present the big picture**
- 2. Teach the basics**
- 3. Emphasize positives**
- 4. Focus on principles, not “rules”**

DON'T

- 1. Oversimplify information (Sugar is poison)**
- 2. Over-generalize (Eating right will cure all heart disease)**
- 3. Make sweeping claims (Such and such food or remedy cures cancer)**

Remember: Marketing cures, making sweeping statements, or giving unqualified individual advice can:

- Cause unintended health consequences**
- Subject the church to liability**
- Create prejudice and bring reproach**

“Health reform, wisely treated, will prove an entering wedge where the truth may follow with marked success...”

“But to present health reform unwisely has served to create prejudice with unbelievers and bar the way to the truth, leaving the impression that we are extremists.” 3 SM 325

3. Personal and Practical

Personal: Use credible, well-documented materials that will help participants recognize, prioritize, and implement their personal goals.

A personalized program will:

- Educate
- Motivate
- Inspire

Practical: Being practical means showing people:

- What to do
- How to do it
- Ways to stay motivated
- Continued support

Presenting health programs and meeting the public enables us to introduce:

1. The role of nutrition in health and disease
2. Practical ways to improve eating and lifestyle habits
3. Sensible plans for achieving long-term success
4. Resources, materials, and programs

**“There is real common sense in health reform.”
CTBH 58**

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