

ACTION

PURPOSE AND SITUATION OF THE ROLLO

Action is the third element of a strong foundation for a Christian life. The first two elements, Piety and Study, have already been presented. Action explains the third leg of the three-legged stool/tripod.

ACTION is the third rollo of the second day and should leave the candidates wanting to move outside themselves. It builds upon all the preceding rollos and shows a way to come to know Christ better by finding Him in and with other people. To accept God's free grace for oneself, and to respond to it in loving service and relationship with others in Jesus' name, is truly to have begun to live the life in grace.

Throughout this rollo, there should be strong personal examples of action. The witness should also include examples of how the Christian action of others has influenced the rollista's life. At the same time, it should be made very clear that Christians are called to act out of their own unique personality and style.

Time objective: Should not exceed **20** minutes

ACTION

OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION**
 - A. Definition**
 - B. Connected to Piety and Study**
- II. WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR ACTION?**
 - A. To know Christ**
 - B. To make Christ known**
- III. WHAT IS THE GOAL OF ACTION?**
 - A. Ministry and service**
 - B. Evangelism**
 - **Make a friend**
 - **Be a friend**
 - **Bring your friend to Christ**
- IV. WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ACTION?**
 - A. Authentic and God inspired**
 - B. Planned and balanced**
 - C. Loving, caring, and respectful of others**
 - D. Persevering**
- V. WHAT FORM DOES ACTION TAKE?**
 - A. How?**
 - **Individually**
 - **In informal groups**
 - **In organized bodies**
 - B. Where?**
 - **In the church**
 - **In the world**
- VI. CONCLUSION**
 - A. Action is inspired by Piety**
 - B. Action is directed by Study**
 - C. Action is the natural consequence of a lively faith**

(The Rollista is encouraged to leave the candidates with this thought: Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring your friend to Christ)

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COMMENTARY ON THE OUTLINE

(This material is intended as a study aid for the Rollista. It is not intended to be the rollo.)

I. INTRODUCTION. This rollo is about receiving Christ and sharing Christ, in and with other people. It is about sharing a precious possession, our life in union with God. His “Love and Grace” is so overwhelming it cannot be confined within oneself. Therefore, it is essential for the rollista to show that action cannot stand alone but is always directed by study and piety.

A. Definition. Christian Action is the power of the love of God and the love of neighbor, which moves us to the spreading of God’s kingdom.

- Christian action is a natural outgrowth of the life in grace.
- Christian action is motivated by the love of God and neighbor. *‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’* Matthew 22: 34-40 (NIV)

B. Connected to Piety and Study. Action is the third leg of the Christian life tripod/stool. The relationship of the Piety, Study, and Action elements is critical to this talk. It should be made very clear that this will become the basis of the candidates’ fourth day. The action of a Christian, in order to be fruitful, is always directed by study and piety. Piety, study, and action combine to give focus to our Ideal.

II. WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR ACTION? Action is an outgrowth of the Christian life. Our Life in Grace is supported and developed by Christian action.

A. To know Christ. Each of the previous rollos dealt with an individual's relationship with Christ. The Action talk has this aspect as well. It strives to make clear that Christ reveals Himself to us in many ways; through our Christian brothers and sisters and through life’s trials and joys, struggles and victories.

B. To make Christ known. Through our actions, we make Christ known to others. Faith comes alive in action; action comes alive in faith. We are loved by Christ and we cannot hold it in. *“We love Him because He first loved us.”* 1 John 4:19 (NKJV). *“That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”* Phil. 2:15, 16 (NKJV)

III. WHAT IS THE GOAL OF ACTION?

A. Ministry and service. Service is the sharing of Christ in deeds of love and mercy. Christ revealed this to us by His willingness to become a servant when He washed the disciple’s feet. He fed the 5000. He healed the lepers. He cried with Mary and

Martha. He rejoiced with the wedding party. He died on a cross, for all of us. He was and is the prime example of the Servant-Leader. *"After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."* John 13:5 (NIV)

B. Evangelism. Scripture speaks of being a neighbor as one who dwells with another in justice, love, and sensitivity. It sets no limits on the answer to this classic question except to say that you have no neighbor until you are one yourself. *"Who is my neighbor?"* Luke 10:29 (NKJV). Scripture speaks of being a **friend**, one of the warmest and most loving words Jesus used. We have been **befriended**. His grace has set us free; free to be a friend to others as Christ is our friend. The call to action is a call to friendship. *"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."* John 15:15 (NKJV)
We can think of it as a threefold movement and discovery:

- **Make a friend.** Be open to establishing new relationships. Every person is potentially your friend in Christ.
- **Be a friend.** A friend stands alongside, responds when needed; is present for another, sees the warmth and grace in another's life, celebrates the joys and feels the pain. The Christ who is alive in us reaches into the lives of others as we develop caring friendships.
- **Bring your friend to Christ.** As Christians, we quite literally and tangibly share Christ's love with others. In part, we are, in an awesome sense, Christ to one another. At times we may share Him openly with spoken words in Jesus' name. At other times, our words and deeds must speak for themselves. If you love your friend, you want the very best for him/her – Jesus Christ.

IV. **WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ACTION?** If Christian action is going to be effective, it has to have certain qualities.

- A. Authentic and God inspired.** Jesus Christ has set the pattern for friendship. He was involved in the daily lives of others. His service commits us to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes us sensitive to all the sufferings of humankind. There was nothing phony about Jesus: there should be nothing phony about us. Jesus prayed to the Father for wisdom and guidance: we should do likewise. Before you talk to your friend about God; talk to God about your friend.
- B. Planned and balanced.** We seek ways to show practical friendship, caring in word and deed. We act out of our own personality, our own style, our own Christ-centered way. The action of a disciple should be something we have prayed about, thought-out, and planned. Christian action should be balanced among the many aspects of our lives (family, church, work etc.). Action also occurs on the spur of the moment, taking advantage of opportunities.

C. Loving, caring and respectful of others. Christian friendship is treating others as we want to be treated. We are to respect their autonomy; we should not try to take over their lives.

D. Persevering. Christ has not given up on anyone and neither should we.

V. WHAT FORM DOES ACTION TAKE?

A. How

- **Individually.** Each person in his/her own environment through word and deed and prayer. We can have the greatest impact on the world one soul at a time, man to man or woman to woman.
- **In informal groups.** Groups, which are linked together through common interests or friendship, without any kind of formal bonds, but with a Church-oriented spirit.
- **In organized bodies.** Together as the Church, we become a mighty army.

B. Where

- **In the Church.** The church can be one of our most fertile fields for action. “*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*” Galatians 6:10 (KJV)
(A brief personal example is encouraged.)
- **In the world.** This section offers opportunities to illustrate, in concrete ways, how action takes place outside the church. The candidates need to see that it is possible to make friends with those around them and to lead them to Christ. (A brief personal example is encouraged.)

VI. CONCLUSION. We come to know God the Father and Jesus through the loving acts of others. This rollo should leave the candidates with the assurance that the basic need of the Christian is, first, to live and dwell in Jesus Christ. Then the natural consequence of a lively faith is to share that life and love with others.

A. Action is an outgrowth of Piety

B. Action is directed by study

C. Action flows out of a vibrant faith

*(The Rollista is encouraged to leave the candidates with this thought: **Make a friend...Be a friend...Bring your friend to Christ!***

The third leg of Christian life tripod/stool should be inserted at the beginning, during, or at the end of this rollo)

Note to the rollista: *There is far more subject matter in this “**Commentary . . .**” than is required to meet the time objective of the rollo. While it is necessary to speak very briefly on*

each item listed in the outline, be careful to select for expansion, only those items for which you have something significant to contribute - - usually through personal experience. Remember, the more important part of the Weekend will occur during table discussions than what participants will learn or remember from hearing the rollo. The rollo is meant more to spark ideas for the table discussions than it is meant to be instructive.

Time objective: Should not exceed **20** minutes

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BIBLE REFERENCES

(These Bible references are included here to help the rollista understand some of the biblical background of the rollo. The list is neither complete nor is it intended to become part of the rollo. Read the references and listen for the Word of God.)

Matthew	22: 34-40	Love of God and the love of neighbor
1 John	4:19	We are loved by Christ
John	13:5	Example of the Servant-Leader
Luke	10:29	Who is my neighbor
John	15:15	We have been befriended
Galatians	6:10	Let us do good unto all men