

Meekness and Truth Ministries, Inc.
(www.meeknessandtruth.org)

Problems In Doing Evangelism Today

The Kind of World We Live In...

- The appreciation of and the ability to reason critically are being lost.
- "Truth" is increasingly fluid, arrived at depending on the given situation and one's individual experience. Not being absolute, it varies from one community to the next.
- There is widespread skepticism or outright rejection of universal moral absolutes, objective truth and intolerance toward those who advocate either.

Understanding the Times We Live in Compels us...

- A. To clarify what we commonly mean by evangelism. Evangelism is a process (1 Corinthians 3:6).
- B. To allow others to discover the truth for themselves through the use of probing questions.

Pre-Evangelism

If evangelism is planting seeds of the Gospel, pre-evangelism is tilling the soil of their mind and heart, preparing them to at least be willing to listen to the Truth (Mark 4:8).

Key To Evangelism

The vital role of the Holy Spirit (John 6:65, 1 Corinthians 2:4-14)

- To empower us to speak in a way that makes a difference (Acts 14:1).
- To empower us to live godly lives (Philippians 1:14).

The Four Parts Of This Model Correspond To The Four Types Of Conversations We Want To Have With Our Not-Yet Christian Friends

- A. Hearing Conversations - Like a musician, hear the sour notes people are "singing" to us.
 1. This is always the first step where we seek to understand what they actually believe, and to detect some of the inconsistencies in their viewpoint.
 2. Types of inconsistencies you might hear:
 - Belief vs. Behavior (Galatians 2:14-16)
 - Belief vs. Belief (Acts 17:22-30)
 - Illogical Beliefs

- B. Illuminating Conversations - Like an artist, asking questions helps paint a picture to enable them to see themselves more clearly.

This is where we ask questions to help people to "see" for themselves (without directly telling them they are wrong) some of the discrepancies in their beliefs. Our goal is to help them question whether their beliefs are a strong enough foundation to build their life on.

Ask questions:

- That uncover the meaning of certain unclear terms.
- That surface their uncertainties and / or expose false beliefs or concepts.
- In a way that minimizes their defensiveness, and yet creates a curiosity to want to hear more!

To plant seeds of truth rather than win arguments!

C. Uncovering Conversations - Like an archeologist, uncover their real barriers to the Gospel

This is where we try to uncover the real barriers they have to the Gospel (Jeremiah 17:9).

- Determine whether their issue is a real concern, or a smoke screen.
 - Formula: If I could answer your question, would that help?
 - Determine whether their barrier is mostly an intellectual or emotional question or concern, or a combination of both.
 - Uncover the specific emotional baggage that they are carrying.
 - Find the right balance to your approach (objective vs. subjective).
 - Find out what their biggest barrier to Christianity is.
 - Find out what would motivate them to get answers in these areas.
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D. Building Conversations - Like a builder, build a bridge to the Gospel

Because there has been an erosion of truth today, we need to find common ground with others using planks of common understanding. Our goal is to then attempt to build a positive case for Christ and look for opportunities to invite them to trust Him.

- Find common ground with those we are attempting to reach
 - Construct a bridge using planks of common understanding (1 Cor. 9:22), some of which they may have discovered by this time
 - Remember the goal: Use this bridge to offer our non-believing friend a path to Christ (2 Tim. 4:2-5).
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Conversational Evangelism Model In A Nutshell

We want to *hear* their discrepancies and then *illuminate* them by asking questions that will “clarify” their religious terminology and “surface” the uncertainty of their perspective. Then we want to *uncover* the real barriers and *build* a bridge to help them take one step closer to Jesus Christ each day (1 Corinthians 3:6).