

Session 1 – Introduction

Tell us some arguments or claims made by other people challenging Christianity

- Explanation of the Class (Defending the Faith)
 - o Strategy vs Tactic
- Definition of Argument
 - o Meant to find truth
 - o Argument is not division
 - o 2 Timothy 2:23-26
 - Paul tells us to not be quarrelsome
- Ambassador Definition (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)
 1. Stands between 2 parties; needs to know 2 things:
 - o The message to communicate – (**message of reconciliation**)
 - o The foreign subject, the one to whom the message is sent
 2. We already ARE ambassadors
 - o For good or for ill
 - o Whether we like it or not
 3. Just as if God were speaking through us
 - o Right now I am an ambassador for the Indianapolis Church of Christ
 - o May be the only living Bible some people ever read

The 2 reasons people don't become Christians

1. They don't know any Christians
 2. They do know Christians
- Ambassador Traits
 - o Knowledge – An Accurately Informed Mind
 - Needs to be thoroughly acquainted with who and what he represents
 - His King
 - His king's intentions
 - Needs to know the wishes and plans of his sovereign so he can accurately represent his desires
 - o Wisdom – An Artful Method
 - A tactical sensitivity
 - A diplomatic skill
 - A tactical wisdom
 - Right use of knowledge
 - o Character – An Attractive Manner
 - He IS the package the Knowledge and Wisdom come in
 - If he is a womanizer, a drunk, a thief, a liar or just plain rude; could undermine the message

- Critical to making the sovereign's message effective
 - His character will speak louder than words. Make or break the mission
- Lancelot Video
The Christian Ambassador
- First – Knowledge: Basic Knowledge necessary for the task
 - An accurate grasp of the foundational precepts concerning the Kingdom as they apply to the current culture.
 - Must know the Lord and his intentions, and the message
 - Who has read the Bible all the way through?
 - Dr. who doesn't know Anatomy or Medicine
 - Lawyer who doesn't know Law
 - Teacher who only read cliff notes
 - Who has taken a class/course on understanding context of the Bible
 - 2 Critical areas
 - Knowledge about the facts of Christianity
 - Not necessary to be a Theologian, but you can't know nothing
 - Jude 1:3
 - 2 Timothy 1:13-14
 - Eric Bible Class
 - Must know the obstacles we will encounter on our diplomatic mission
 - Knowing the false philosophies of the age
 - Need an accurate knowledge of the truth and errors we have to deal with
 - Knowledge of the questions
 - Constantly changing
 - Knowledge of the thinking of the 21st Century (Moral Relativism?)
 - Scriptures are clear on this
 - DON'T be taken captive by human philosophies and traditions (Col 2:8)
 - DO destroy worldly theories raised up against the truth (2 Cor 10:3-5)
 - For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
 - Second – Wisdom: The knowledge must be deployed in a skillful way
 - An element of wisdom; A tactical and artful diplomacy that makes the message persuasive
 - Maneuvering: Knowing the right words for the moment to maneuver through difficult waters
 - Puts you in the driver's seat

- Many cases stops a challenger in his tracks, turn the tables, and gets him thinking
- Tactics are ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL
 - Columbo Tactic – Using questions in a skillful way
 - Gain information
 - Get out of the hot seat
 - Reverse the burden of proof or
 - Exploit a weakness or flaw in the other person’s view
 - Suicide Tactic – Show that a view is self-refuting
 - You shouldn’t judge!
 - There is no truth.
- Clarifying
 - Clear: Using language and terms that are intelligible
 - Persuasive: Presenting the truth in a compelling way; adapting your message to the specific person or circumstances
- Col 4:6 – Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.
- Corey Analogy: “I don’t understand what you’re trying to say; all you are doing is regurgitating information. I don’t understand your lingo.”
- Third – Character: Embodiment the Virtues of the kingdom we serve
 - 24/7, no clocking out – Superhero Analogy
 - Know of anyone who has a lot of knowledge and wisdom, but are personally offensive in word or deed they are severely handicapped as an effective representative for Christ?
 - It doesn’t take a good ambassador to notice a bad one
 - 2 extremes:
 - We’re so nice we won’t say anything that could possibly offend anyone
 - We don’t care what anybody thinks, so we offend everyone
 - We are not the bullies
 - 1 Peter 3:15 – But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence
 - 2 Timothy 2:24-25 – And the Lord’s bondservant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if

perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.

- Relatability
 - Getting rid of Christian Lingo
 - God bless you – well meaning, but comes across as artificial and even silly at times
 - Put on Christian affect for a rich, crisp, clean personality
 - A man/woman with personal and spiritual depth
- Examples
 - Restaurant
 - Ask the waiter/waitress his/her name
 - Give a big tip
 - 15% for bad
 - 20% for good
 - Say thank you – before you leave – (We had a great time)
 - Three Powerful Phrases – Using your Character to disarm
 - I could be wrong
 - I sympathize with your concern
 - That’s a good point, a fair challenge, or a reasonable objection
 - Make peace today
 - With the fact that if you’re faithful to the message you will be persecuted at some level. Make up your mind in advance to value God’s approval over man’s
- Rules of Engagement
 - Not meant to belittle or humiliate
 - Not meant to verbally beat people up
 - Not meant to throw Bible verses at unbelievers
 - Not meant to Force someone into your point of view
 - Prior experience is not necessary
 - Get a bigger picture of someone’s argument
 - Looking for mistakes or flaws in someone’s point of view
 - Listen to them to hear what they have to say
 - Seek to understand by asking questions
 - Fact finding mode
 - If anyone gets angry you lose
 - Pray about your conversation (ask for wisdom)
 - It is okay to fail
 - If done right you can never fail
 - Planting the seed; letting God do His job
 - Avoiding foolish arguments (Quarreling)

- Not an excuse for not doing personal study
- Not necessary to take them to the foot of the cross
 - Put a rock in their shoe
 - An invitation in their hand
- Goal (use of the slider)