



Preaching and Debating for Contrast

European Leadership Forum

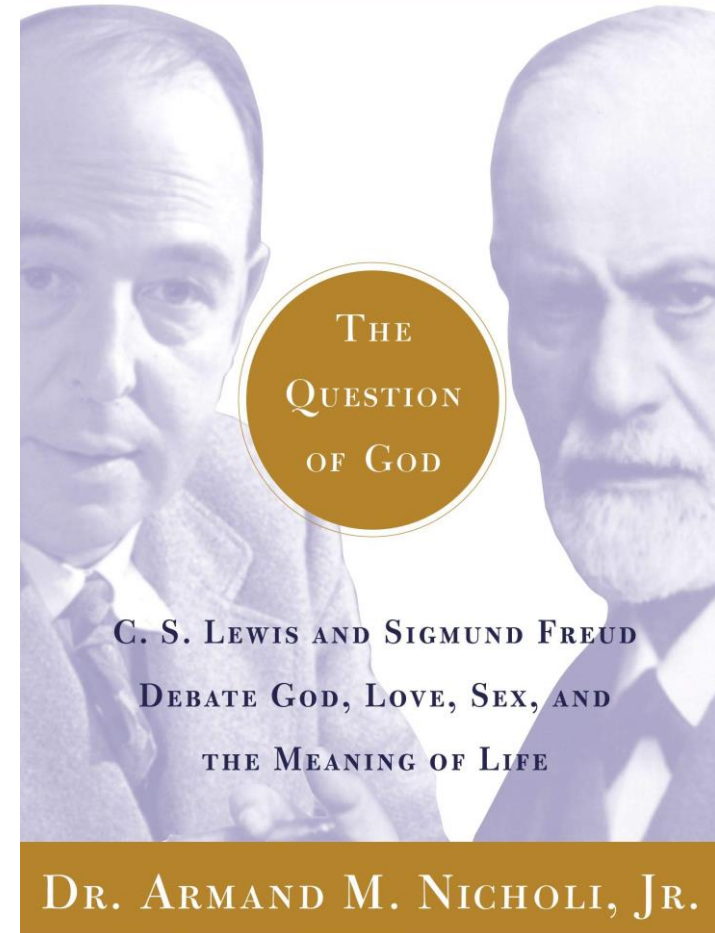
René Breuel




“Love your neighbor as your neighbor loves you.”

“If I love someone, he must deserve it in some way... He deserves it if he is so like me in important ways that I can love myself in him; and he deserves it if he is so much more perfect than myself that I can love my ideal of my own self in him.” Sigmund Freud


“Nicholi has hit the nail on the head with this irresistible, expertly told story. Here in the lives of two real and recognizable geniuses can be found our own longing and search. I couldn't put it down.” —KEN BURNS






Acts 9:28-29


“So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He talked and debated (συνεζήτει) with the Hellenistic Jews...”






Acts 19:9

“He took the disciples with him and had discussions
(διαλεγόμενος) daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.”






Acts 17:16-20


While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned (διελέγετο μὲν οὖν ἐν τῇ συναγωγῇ) in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate (συνέβαλλον) with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean."





Addressing Christians and non-Christians

- Affirm their presence
 - Honor their intelligence
 - Address their concerns
 - Include their “voices” through paraphrase
 - Challenge their assumptions
 - Quote authorities they respect
- 




Judas by Lady Gaga


I'm just a holy fool, oh, baby, it's so cruel
But I'm still in love with Judas, baby ...

When he calls to me, I am ready
I'll wash his feet with my hair if he needs ...

Jesus is my virtue
And Judas is the demon I cling to, I cling to ...

In the most biblical sense
I am beyond repentance
Fame hooker, prostitute wench vomits her mind ...






Once more, before I move on
and set my sights ahead,
in loneliness I lift my hands up to you,
you to whom I flee,
to whom I, in the deepest depth of my heart,
solemnly consecrated altars
so that ever
your voice may summon me again.

Deeply graven into those altars
glows the phrase: To The Unknown God.
I am his, although I have, until now,
also lingered amid the unholy mob;
I am his—and I feel the snares
that pull me down in the struggle and,
if I would flee,
compel me yet into his service.

I want to know you, Unknown One,
Who reaches deep into my soul,
Who roams through my life like a storm—
You Unfathomable One, akin to me!
I want to know you, even serve you.
—Friedrich Nietzsche, 1864



To love is to make love:

“101 hot & sexy movies.

Try A-L-L of them. Guaranteed fun ;)”

Technical approach to life:

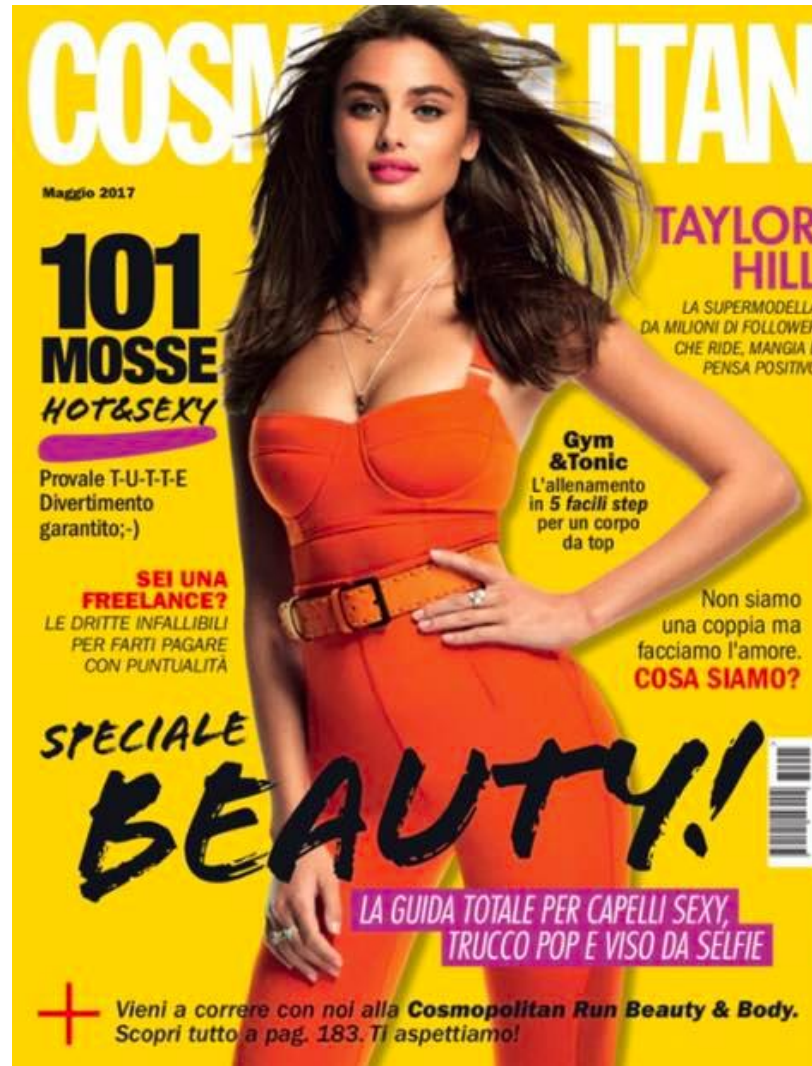
“Are you a freelance?

Infallible tips to get you paid on time.”

Emphasis on physical attractiveness:

“Beauty special!

The total guide for sexy hair, pop
make-up and a selfie face.”



The crisis of modern love:

“We aren't a couple but we are
making love. What are we?”










The Christian spirit for debates and dialogues

- Grace & truth
 - Love and respect & honesty and clarity
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How to organize dialogues & debates

- Identify a theme and a conversation partner
 - Make an invitation
 - Establish trust
 - Organize the event
 - Follow up with interested people
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Practices to nurture the art of reasoning and debating

- Observation & reflection
 - Diverse cultural diet
 - Reading non-Christian authors (Alain de Botton, Luc Ferry)
 - Reading fiction (Tolstoy, Austen, Dostoevsky)
 - Learning from preachers who practice it (Tim Keller, Wonderingfair.com, Jonathan Sacks, *The Question of God*)
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