

“How Do I Engage People Who Object to the Truth of the Gospel?”

Not all objections to the gospel are equal. Not all canned “apologetic” answers are effective. Many of those asking questions are sincere; many are not. How do we know the difference between a stall and an objection? How do we lovingly and accurately engage people with the truth of the Gospel? This workshop provides pastoral instruction on how to properly identify and effectively shepherd people with doctrinal, moral and personal objections to the Christian faith.

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Introduction: The Great Commission vs. The Little Commissions

Acts 1:8 “...you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

John 6:44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...”

1 Corinthians 3:6 “I (Paul) planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.”

1. Equipping us to water and nurture “unripe fruit” — people who have had the good seed of the gospel planted in their truth seeking, receptive hearts but are not yet ready to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior.

2. Equipping us to locate and pick “ripe fruit” — people who are also truth-seekers who have been sufficiently prepared by the Holy Spirit and are ready to be picked.

The Simple Steps for Engaging People with the Truth

Step #1: Engaging People With An Understanding Of The Simple Gospel

What is the minimum I must believe to be saved?

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Acts 16:31 “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...”

- I must BELIEVE that Jesus Christ (the fully divine Son of God and the fully human Son of Man) died on the cross for mankind and bodily rose from the grave. (*1 Cor. 15:3-4*)
- I must ADMIT that I am a sinner (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 1 Jn 1:8)
- I must AGREE to turn from sin to God (Acts 20:21; 1 Thess. 1:9)
- I must ACKNOWLEDGE that Jesus Christ is the Risen Lord (Rom. 10:9-10)
- I must ACCEPT God's free gift of salvation (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6:23; Jn 1:12; Titus 3:5; Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12; Jn. 3:16)

BAAAA == BELIEVE - ADMIT — AGREE - ACKNOWLEDGE - ACCEPT

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

Step # 2. Engaging People Regarding Their Objections To The Gospel

- Doctrinal Objections — “I don’t believe...” comments
- Moral Objections — “How could God?” questions
- Personal Objections — “Here’s what happened to me...”

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.”

Understanding the Difference Between Stalls and Objections

• Red Light Objections: Stop!

—objections that, if left unanswered, prevent someone from becoming a truly born-again Christian.

Some Red Light Objections

- “I don’t believe in God.” • “I don’t believe in the resurrection.” • “I don’t believe I’m a sinner.”
- “I don’t want to turn from sin.” • “I don’t believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man.”
- “I believe I’m saved by works.”

• Yellow Light Stalls: Proceed With Caution...But Proceed Nonetheless!

— questions/comments that If left unanswered these matters would NOT fundamentally keep some from becoming a born-again Christian

Some Yellow Light Stalls

- “Isn’t the Bible full of errors?” • “Aren’t Christians hypocrites?” • “Why does God allow innocent people suffer?”
- “I don’t go to church.” • “What about those who have never heard the gospel?” • “Isn’t Christianity just a crutch?”
- “I go to my own church?” • “I worship God in my own way?” • “I am not sure Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven.” • “I don’t know if I believe in a heaven or hell.” • “What about evolution or other matters of science and the Bible” • “I am not sure I can be a good Christian?”

• Green Light Responses: Keep On Going! — no objections

Answering Objections to the Gospel

Lovingly (1 Tim. 1:5; 2 Tim 2:24-26) Accurately (Acts 17:2, 17; 2 Tim. 2:14-16, 23)
Reverently (1 Pet. 3:13-15) Confidently (1 Pet. 3:15) Powerfully (i.e. vigorously) (Acts 18:28)

Step #3. Engaging People With A Casual Approach

- A. Make a list of casual acquaintances
- B. Arrange a time to meet with them
- C. Begin with a simple question
- D. Go through the Simple Gospel (BAAAA) (See outline below)

Step #4. Engaging People With A Simple Testimony

“I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure .

. . .

“We are all missionaries. Wherever we go, we either bring people nearer to Christ, or we repel them from Christ.” (Eric Liddell) cf. 1 Peter 3:13-17

Presenting the Simple Gospel – God’s Perfect Plan of Salvation

- **Do you believe Jesus died on the cross for you and rose from the dead?** (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
- **Do you admit you are a sinner?** (i.e. that you do things that God hates?) (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 1:8)
- **Do you agree to turn from sin to God?** (i.e. Are you willing to turn away from things that God hates as best you know how, right now?) (Acts 20:21; 1 Thess. 1:9)
- **Do you acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and Savior?** (i.e. He is God and desires to direct your life) (Rom. 10:9)
- **Will you accept God's free gift of salvation by receiving Jesus as your personal Savior?** You can do nothing to earn it...and you will never deserve it. It’s by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
(Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 6:23; Jn 1:12; Titus 3:5; Acts 4:12; Jn. 3:16)
- **Will you say this simple prayer aloud and mean it with all your heart?**
“Lord Jesus, I receive you as my Lord and personal Savior. Amen.”

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