

Practical Tools on Engaging with the Public Square

Drawing on experiences from Apologia – Centre for Christian Apologetics and the foundation of the Swedish Evangelical Alliance, this open discussion will address the tools we need to engage well in the public square. This session will equip participants with the best points of entry into public conversations, arguments to use (and not use), and the right type of language and tone to employ.

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Introduction

Communicating in a

- Facebook culture of likes and dislikes
- a relativistic culture that is ... moralistic and judgmental

1. A Theological Perspective

1 Pet 2:12–17

Called to

- be involved
- be a constructive citizen
- bring a moral perspective
- bring a theological perspective

2. Example of Biblical Activism

Joseph: Government, Genesis 41

Shifra and Pua: Civil Disobedience, Exodus 1:15

Esther: Queen

Jeremiah: Temple Protest, Jer 7

Ezekiel: Year-long provocative "sit-in strike", Hes 4

Daniel: Career at Nebuchadnezzar, Dan 1

Amos: International political protests, Amos 1

Zeno: Lawyer, Titus 3:13

Apollos: Academic, Acts 18:24

Erastus: Treasurer, Rom 16:23

Dionysius: Member of the Areopagus, Acts 17:34

People at the Emperor's Court: Phil 4:22

3. An Evangelical Voice

- for freedom for all
- with gentleness and respect
- with logic and coherence
- that addresses a variety of issues
- that uses a variety of platforms, mediums and format
- that speaks from general revelation but is deeply informed by special revelation