

Dangerous Conversations: Navigating Political Correctness in the Public Arena

How do evangelicals relate to and properly handle anti-biblical and anti-Christian agendas and values in the public arena? How do we do our jobs and build relationships without promoting philosophies and lifestyles we know to be detrimental to both the individual and society? Becoming wise as serpents and gentle as doves, Christians must learn practical ways to maneuver through these difficult and important topics. In this workshop we will look at and discuss three primary ways to be Truth Bearers (salt and light) and still keep our jobs and our friendships.

Teri McCarthy earned her PhD in education and second language acquisition from the University of Kansas. She also has a Master's Degree in education and a Bachelor's Degree in mass communication and journalism. Teri co-authored *Teaching in a Distant Classroom* (InterVarsity Press), a handbook for Christian professors, which is now in its third printing and has been published in Korean as well. She has traveled, taught, and conducted research in more than 50 countries. Teri has taught in public universities internationally for over 30 years, including in China, Russia, and Afghanistan. From 2010 until recently she taught in Lithuania, including six years as associate professor at Lithuania University of Educational Sciences in Vilnius.

I. Pick Your Battles Wisely

A. Ask yourself these three important questions:

1. Is this negotiable?
2. Is this the time?
3. Am I prepared?

II. Care More for Winning the Soul Than the Argument

A. Ask the colleague/friend these three questions?

1. How did you come to believe this?
2. Has this philosophy worked well for you?
3. What do think is the reason for the opposition?

III. Ask God or Opportunities

A. Don't go into the situation with weapons drawn

1. Pray for opportunities to share your ideas
2. Pray for colleagues/coworkers/classmates

3. Pray that God will give you creative and unusual ways to share Truth in these situations

Suggested Readings:

Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People's Hearts the Way Jesus Did (2nd Edition) by Randy Newman – Kregel Publications 2017

The Politically Correct Christian: Trading Christ Centeredness for Political Correctness by Mark Taylor – CreateSpace Independent Publishing 2016