

Law Sub-Track: How Do We Promote What Is Good for Society?

Having established what is good for society this talk will consider how we go about promoting that in a public square that is often hostile to the Christian viewpoint. How do we speak the truth in love on controversial issues, whilst at the same time pointing people to the gospel of grace? And, what unique role might Christian lawyers have to play in all of this? We will consider some practical examples of how this might be worked out in today's Europe.

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I. Why do Christians find it hard to communicate effectively in the public square?

II. Removing Obstacles

III. Building Bridges

	Need of certainty		Emotional needs	
Concern for the poor		Need of justice		Care for the environment
	A desire to give		Need of truth	
Need of beauty		Love of children		Other justified needs & good ethics

Kris Vleugels and EEA's Public Authorisation Team

"To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Cor. 9: 2-22)

IV. Good Arguments

- A. *"Believers should strive to legislate those socially valuable moral teachings of Scripture whose value can be meaningfully argued in a pluralistic society... offer[ing] arguments on scientific, social and ethical grounds, potentially meaningful to the non-Christian."*

--J.W. Montgomery, quoted in A Biblical View of Law and Justice

- B. Remember to think about language

V. A word about co-belligerence

VI. Some tips for good practice

A. Understanding and Respecting the audience

B. The emperor's new clothes?

C. Shrewd Messaging

D. Consistent Lives and Common Ground

E. Fairness and Proportionality

F. Humility and a willingness to listen

G. Celebrating what is good

VII. Case Study: The UK's Religious and Racial Hatred Bill

VIII. A Final Word

Unconditional Love

'If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.'

1 Peter 2: