

# Confident Christianity

- Modules 7, 8 & 9

ELF Politics and Society Network

24 May 2022

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# Course Objectives

- Personal training in 'Confident Christianity' – ten weeks
- Twelve modules plus difficult questions
- Understand how to teach 'Confident Christianity' to others
- Exercises and small group interactions to reinforce teaching
- Exercise and questions with each module
- Opportunity for ongoing interaction in the future

A 3D blue puzzle piece is the central focus, standing upright on a white surface. It is surrounded by other puzzle pieces, some of which are white and some are light blue. The background is a light gray with faint, wavy lines. The text "Module 7" and "The Place of Dialogue" is centered on the blue piece in white font.

Module 7  
The Place of Dialogue

# Exercise - Module 7

- What is the problem in communication in this cartoon?
- Do we ever do this?



## What we say to dogs

Okay, Ginger! I've had it!  
You stay out of the garbage!  
Understand, Ginger? Stay out  
of the garbage, or else!



## What they hear

blah blah GINGER blah  
blah blah blah blah  
blah blah GINGER blah  
blah blah blah blah...



# Apostolic evangelism

In a language they understand  
*(Acts 17:18)*

In an environment they feel comfortable  
*(Acts 16:13, 17:17, 19:9, 28:30)*

With the opportunity for discussion  
*(Acts 17:2,4, 17:17, 18:4, 28, 19:9)*

# Dialogue enables us to...

Check their understanding

Understand their objections

Answer their questions

# What are we afraid of?





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Module 8  
The Nature of Dialogue

# Exercise - Module 8

- Does evangelism frighten you?
- What is it specifically that makes you afraid?



# The common fears

Losing friends

Appearing judgmental

Not knowing how to answer their questions

# Exercise - Module 8

- So what are these questions that you are afraid of being asked?
- Write them on a whiteboard



# Seven deadly questions

1. Is Christ the only way to God?
2. Isn't the Bible full of errors?
3. Isn't Christian experience only psychological?
4. How can miracles be possible?
5. What about those who have never heard the Gospel?
6. Why do the innocent suffer?
7. Won't a good moral life get me to heaven?

# Why we can't believe

1. There's no proof
2. Christianity is irrelevant
3. I've never really thought about it
4. The biggest obstacle is the church
5. There's so much suffering in the world
6. Christianity can't be the only way to God

# Five 21st century British objections

1. God is a moral monster (slavery, the Amorites, etc.)
2. Sex and marriage
3. LGBT and transgender
4. Ethics – especially abortion, euthanasia
5. The intolerance of Christianity

*(The reality is the three exchanges of Romans 1:22, 25, 26)*

# Seven Deadly Islamic Questions

1. But hasn't your Bible been corrupted?
2. What about the predictions of Mohammed in the Bible?
3. How can you worship three gods?
4. Why is there any need for the cross? Surely God can just forgive us?
5. How could God allow his Son to die?
6. The Qur'an is clearly God's word because of its scientific insights
7. How can Christianity be true when the West is so corrupt?



# Exercise - Module 8

- Role play the seven deadly questions
- In pairs or groups
- With a leader playing the devil's advocate



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Module 9  
Reasons for Christian Faith

# Exercise - Module 9

- If someone asked you why you believe Christianity is true, what possible lines of argument could you use?



# Why do you believe?

Beauty and design in the natural order

*e.g. Ps 19:1, Rom 1:19-20*

Inner Awareness

*e.g. Acts 17:27; Rom 2:15*

God's revelation in Jesus Christ

*e.g. Col 1:13-15*

# What are you putting on the agenda?

## Creation

- Genesis vs Evolution
- The problems of suffering and evil

## Experience

- The world's religions
- Isn't it all psychological?
- Relativism and the nature of truth and morals

## Jesus Christ

- The reliability of the Gospels

# Questions on Modules 7, 8 and 9

- 'The Place of Dialogue'
- 'The Nature of Dialogue'
- 'Reasons for Faith'

