

Answer Leighton!

Religion as Control

A socio-philosophical critique of Christianity



Leighton Peart · [Follow](#)

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“Religion is a powerful tool at governing the lives of unintelligent peoples and keeping them in control through scare tactics and the dissemination of mythologies.”

DUMBED DOWN,

BRAINWASHED

MISLED



AND DIVIDE



Questions

The Ultimate Apologetics Tool



Advanced Apologetics Network, ELF

Wisla, Poland, 2024

Last year ...

- ✓ No real conversation
- ✓ No listening
- ✓ Defensive / Offensive
- ✓ Missing the goal



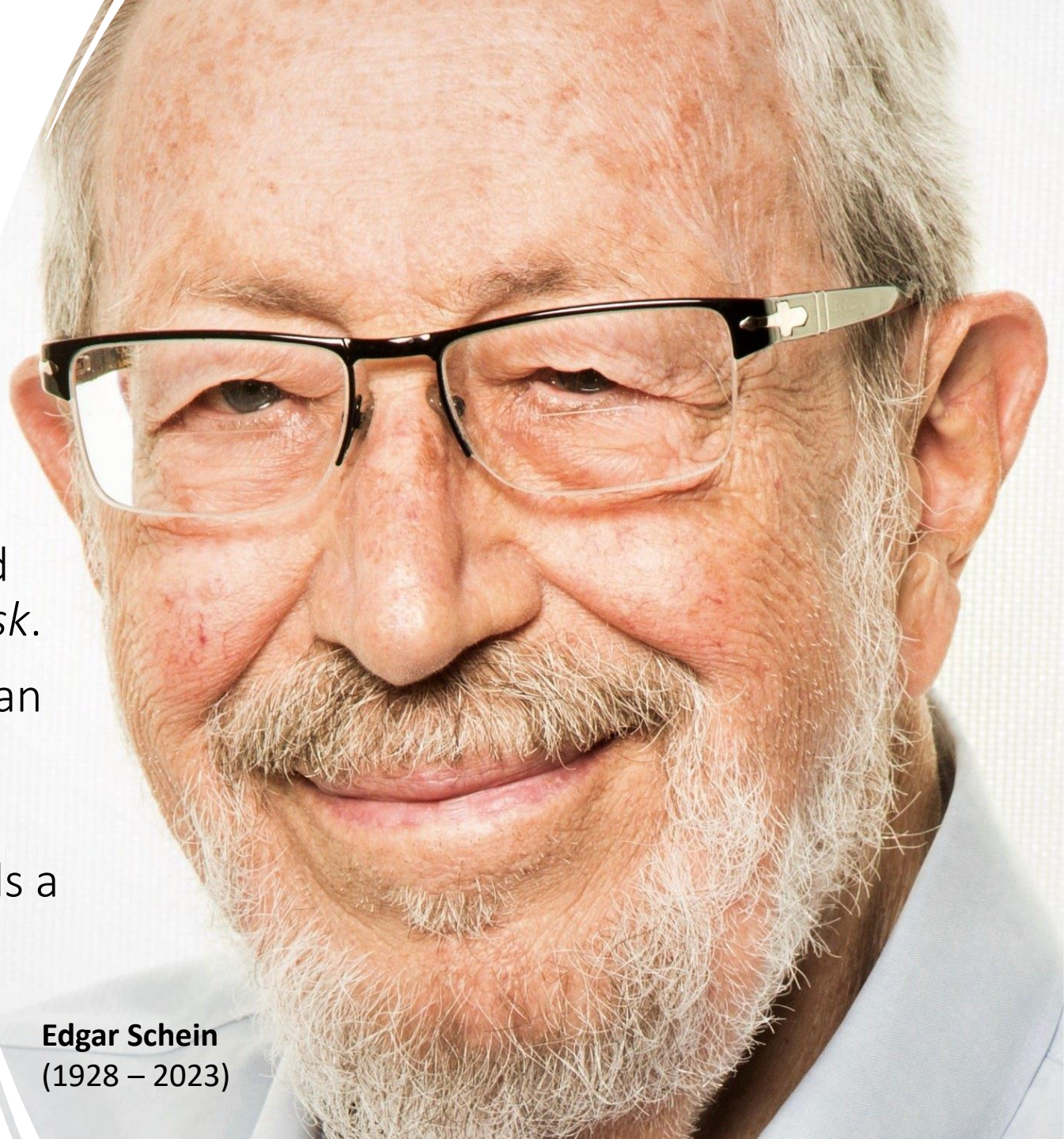
Culture of Tell

It has always bothered me how even ordinary conversations tend to be defined by what we *tell* rather than by what we *ask*.


Questions are taken for granted rather than given a starring role in the human drama.

Yet all my teaching and consulting experience has taught me that what builds a relationship, what solves problems, what moves things forward is

asking the right questions



Edgar Schein
(1928 – 2023)



Jesus asked

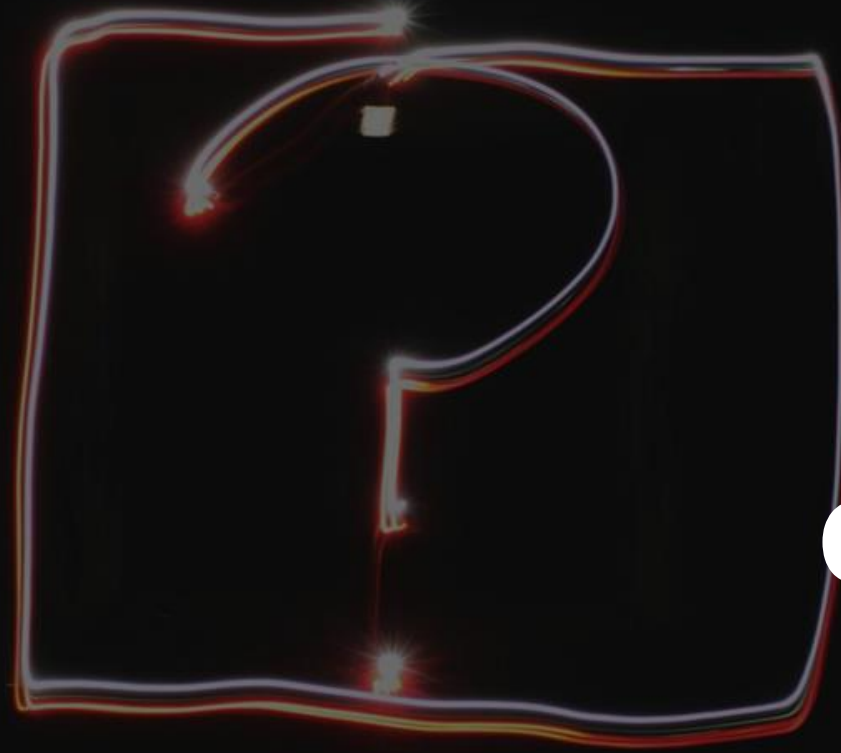
307 questions

Directly answered

3 of the 183

questions he is asked.

**Stop
making
speeches.**



**Start
asking
questions.**

Shift of primary apologetic reflex

3

**superpowers
of questions**



invite:

start the conversation,
build connection
understand

Humble Inquiry

Humble Inquiry is the fine art of drawing someone out, of asking questions to which you do not already know the answer, of building a relationship based on **curiosity and interest in the other person.**



Edgar Schein
(1928 – 2023)







Answer Leighton!



Leighton Peart

**Ask
~~Answer~~ Leighton!**



Leighton Peart

Ask Leighton

“Religion is a powerful tool at governing the lives of unintelligent peoples and keeping them in control through scare tactics and the dissemination of mythologies.”

Humble Inquiry:

**WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
Leighton?**



ignite:

explore thoughts

reveal inconsistencies

challenge assumptions



given her bigoted opinions so first



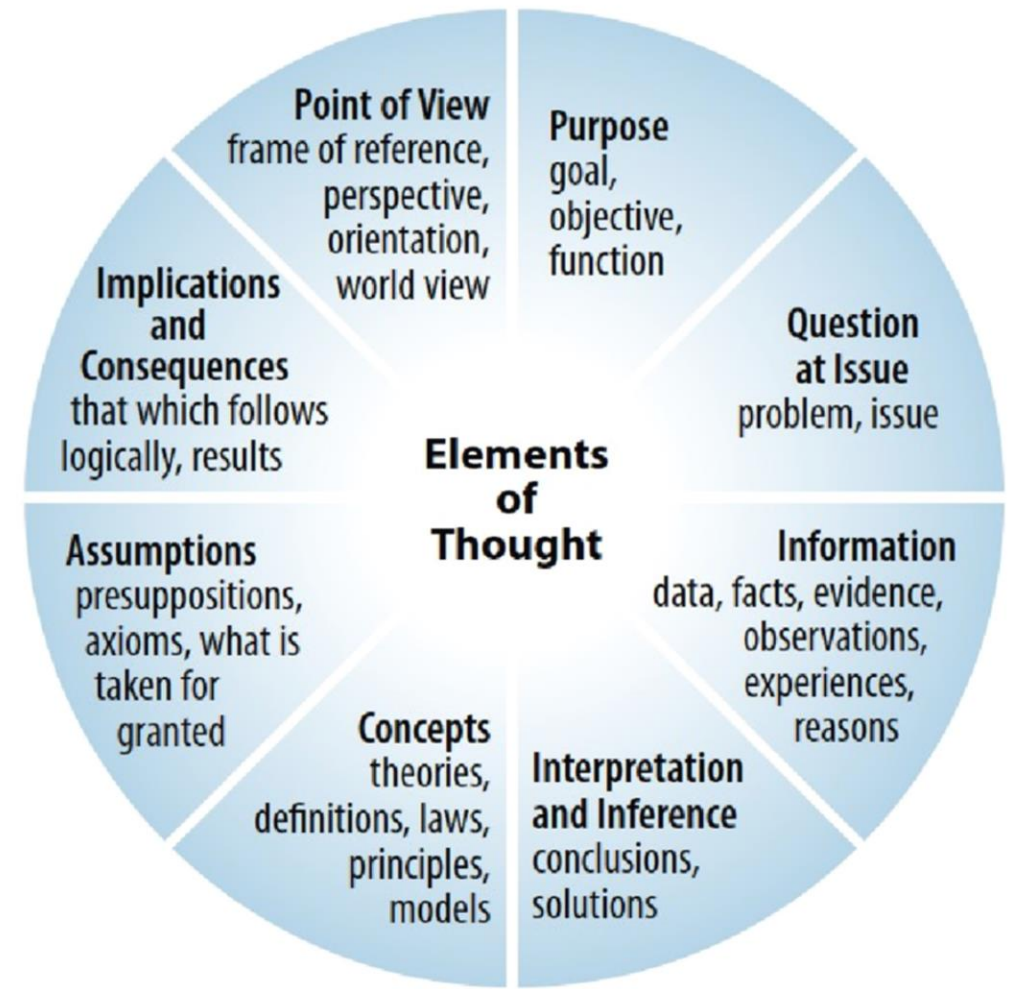
It is not possible to be a good thinker and a poor questioner. Thinking is driven, not by answers, but by essential questions.

We [should] strive for a state of mind in which essential questions become second nature

Richard Paul
(1937 – 2015)



The Elements of Thought





Point of view

All thought takes place within a point of view or frame of reference - a person's most basic beliefs, values, and biases.

Assume that you do not fully understand a thought until you understand the point of view or frame of reference that places it on an intellectual map

Dear Leighton,

From what point of view are you looking at this?

Is there another point of view we should consider?

Which of these possible viewpoints makes the most sense given the situation?



Purpose

All thought reflects an agenda or purpose.

Assume that you do not fully understand someone's thought (including your own) until you understand the agenda behind it.

Dear Leighton,

What are we trying to accomplish here?

What is our central aim or task in this line of thought?

What is the purpose of this conversation?



Question

All thought is responsive to a question.

Assume that you do not fully understand a thought until you understand the question that gives rise to it

Dear Leighton,

I am not sure exactly what question you are raising. Could you explain it?

Is this question the best one to focus on at this point, or is there a more pressing question we need to address?

Should we put the question (problem, issue) this way... or that...?

From your viewpoint the question sounds like... However, from mine it... What do you think about that?



Information

All thoughts presuppose an information base.

Assume that you do not fully understand the thought until you understand the background information (facts, data, experiences) that supports or informs it.

Dear Leighton,

On what information are you basing that comment?

What experience convinced you of this?
Could your experience be distorted?

How do we know this information is accurate? How could we verify it?

Have we failed to consider any information or data we need to consider?

What are these data based on? How were they developed?



Inferences & Interpretations

An Inference is an inductive conclusion we come to by analyzing Information.

An Interpretation is an Inference from a specific Point of View. Two people might have the same facts, but with different Points of View, they may each come to a different solution to the problem.

Assume that you do not fully understand a thought until you understand the inferences that have shaped it

Dear Leighton,

How did you reach that conclusion?

Could you explain your reasoning?

Is there an alternative plausible conclusion?

Given all the facts, what is the best possible conclusion?



Concepts

Concepts are abstract ideas that help us organize the world – theories, definitions, laws, principles, models.

Look carefully to see which Concepts are needed to understand the problem. Are there Concepts specific to the problem that need to be explained?

Assume that you do not fully understand a thought until you understand the concepts that define and shape it.

Dear Leighton,

What is the main idea you are using in your reasoning? Could you explain that idea?

Are we using the appropriate concept, or do we need to re-conceptualize the problem?

Do we need more facts, or do we need to rethink how we are labeling the facts?

Is our question a legal, a theological, or an ethical one?



Assumptions

All thought rests upon assumptions. When we think, we must assume certain things to be true without any real proof that they are.

Assume that you do not fully understand a thought until you understand what it takes for granted.

Dear Leighton,

What exactly are you taking for granted here? Why are you assuming that?

Shouldn't we rather assume that...?

What assumptions underlie our point of view? What alternative assumptions might we make?



Implications

All thought is headed in a direction. It not only begins somewhere (resting on assumptions), it also goes somewhere (has implications and consequences)

- ✓ Implications – logical continuation of current argument.
- ✓ Consequences – effects - what happens if we act on interpretations and inferences

Assume that you do not fully understand a thought unless you know the most important implications and consequences that follow from it

Dear Leighton,

What are you implying when you say...?

If we do this, what is likely to happen as a result?

Are you implying that ...?

Have you considered the implications/consequences of this idea (or practice)?



inspire:

**to consider alternatives
to change perspective
to act**

Dear Leighton,



Leighton Peart

How does ... sound to you?

To what extent does it make sense?

How (if at all) did your point of view change?

What stops you from considering ... as a viable option?

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