

Advancing The Kingdom

“Soldier of Christ” 2 Timothy 2:3-5

CS Lewis has said

“Enemy-occupied territory, that is what this world is but, Christianity is the story of how our rightful King [that’s Jesus] has landed you, you might say in disguise and now He is calling us all to take part in His great campaign of sabotage.”

There is no greater weapon to charge the kingdom of darkness with than the Gospel!

Romans 1:16 It is the power of God unto salvation, it sets captives free and gives life!

Let’s get practical, how do we realistically take ground on this battlefield?

- (1) Contact is made
- (2) Engage With Deadly Force
- (3) Assess For Effective Fire
- (4) Apply -Tools and Tactics
- (5) Clear the space

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

*The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God **for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments** and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

Contact is Made

Engage With Deadly Force

Romans 8:13

“If you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Realize sin
Recognize what Christ has done at the cross
Repent of sin
Receive Jesus as Savior and Lord

No appreciation for sin = No appreciation for a Savior

The Law of God

Romans 3:19-20

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

Assess

3 Assessment questions to ask:

1. Do you believe what I have just shared with you is true?
2. Is there any sin in your life that is worth going to hell over?
3. Can you give me a good reason why you shouldn't get right with God right now?

You can present an *argument* without being *argumentative*

Part of the Navy SEAL creed is:

“The ability to control our emotions and actions regardless of the circumstances”

Philippians 2:12-13

“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

Dallas Willard

“Grace is not opposed to effort (action)-though it is opposed to earning (attitude).”

The disciple knows his craft *masterfully* and shares it *simply*.

Romans 1:18-22

For an argument to be good it must:

- 1) Obey the laws of logic
- 2) Have statements that are more plausibly true than their denial

Example:

1. All men are mortal
2. Socrates is a man

3. Therefore, Socrates is mortal.

Argument #1 The Cosmological Argument

1. Anything that *begins* to exist has something that caused it to exist
2. The universe began to exist
3. Therefore, something caused the universe to exist.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Astronomer, Physicist, Cosmologist Robert Jastrow

"For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

Argument #2 Fine-Tuning of the Universe

1. The fine-tuning of our universe is due to either: *Law, Chance* or *Design*.
2. It is not due to Law or Chance
3. Therefore, the fine-tuning of our universe is due to Design.

Gravitational Constant

Law of Gravity in mathematical form:

$$F = G m^1 m^2 / r^2$$

G represents an unchanging value (6.67384×10^{-11}) known as the *gravitational constant*

If you were to adjust the gravitational constant just 1 part in 10^{60} life would be impossible ANYWHERE in the universe!

Ratio of Electrons to Protons $1:10^{37}$

Gravitational Constant $1:10^{60}$

Cosmological Constant $1:10^{120}$

Early Universe's Low Entropy Condition $1:10^{10(123)}$

(1) Law (Physical necessity)

(2) Chance

(3) Design

Argument:

1. The fine-tuning of the universe is due to either: physical necessity, chance or Design
2. It is not due to physical necessity or chance
3. Therefore, the fine-tuning of our Universe is due to Design

Fine-Tuning Quotes:

British astrophysicist Fred Hoyle

"A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question."

Nobel Prize Awarded Physicist Arno Penzias

"Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing, one with the very delicate balance needed to provide exactly the conditions required to permit life, and one which has an underlying (one might say 'supernatural') plan."

Stephen Hawking Theoretical Physicist/Cosmologist

"The remarkable fact is that the values of these numbers seem to have been very finely adjusted to make possible the development of life."

Jeremiah 33:25

God declares that he "established the fixed laws of heaven and earth"

Psalm 19:1

"The heavens declare the glory of God"

Psalm 8:4

What is man that you are mindful of him; and the son of man that you care for him?

"Greater love has no one than this; than to lay down one's life for his friends"

John 15:13