

## Apologetics V

### 1. Talking to Others about your Faith

- a. Need knowledge, wisdom, & character.
  - 1) Knowledge – Learning the Bible, theology, and how to answer questions.
  - 2) Wisdom – What *needs* to be said, and *how* it needs to be said. Applied knowledge.
  - 3) Character – Is your life attractive and consistent with the Gospel? (Arrogant? Pushy?)
- b. Make sharing your faith your mission – it is!
  - 1) Accept an anointing for evangelism. Don't doubt it.
  - 2) Receive the Holy Spirit – “and you will be my witnesses.”
  - 3) Be confident – in the Lord!
  - 4) Pray for a heart for the lost.
  - 5) Look for opportunities. Ask for opportunities. And then take them!
- c. Listen, Listen, Listen.
  - Shows that you care (And you actually should!). People are not projects. Get to know them, listen well, don't be in a hurry to respond.
  - Not about a formula or presentation to get through.
  - Remember, we're trying to win the person not the argument.
- d. Use Questions (Like Jesus):
  - Questions take the pressure off you. Puts the ball in their court. Gives you time to think. Shows them that you care and are interested.
  - Makes them think – rather than just parrot slogans and buzz phrases. Allows them to come to their own conclusions (kinda).
  - 1) “What do you mean by that?”
    - Clarifying question. To get more information.
  - 2) “Why do you think that? How did you come to that conclusion?”
    - What are the reasons they believe what they do? How'd they get there?
  - 3) Specific questions to point out issues.
    - “If Christianity is true, no matter how convincing the other side sounds at first, there will always be an issue – mistake, incorrect fact, unjustified conclusion, etc...”
- e. Stay focused on Jesus – don't get distracted by the non-essentials or red herrings.
- f. Tell your story & *why* you follow Jesus.

- It's hard to argue with someone's personal experience.
  - This gets to the heart issue.
  - Can you share your testimony in 2 minutes?
  - Share about what God is doing.
- g. Invite people to church! Easy step; make it a habit.
- h. Prayer is one of the most powerful weapons – use it privately and publicly.
- 1) Pray specific people who are lost.
  - 2) Pray for your region, workplace, etc.
  - 3) Pray for opportunities to share.
  - 4) Pray for wisdom in the moment.
  - 5) Pray with the other person!
- i. There's a time to stop.
- 1) The goal isn't always to "close the deal"
    - It's not your responsibility to save someone.
    - You're not in control.
  - 2) Continuing the conversation
  - 3) "Don't cast your pearls before swine."
  - 4) "Shake the dust from your feet."
    - God respects freewill, so should we.