

Christian Ambassador Training

Tactics 1 – Week 7

Intro Exercise--Discuss the goal of each of the Following

Herald	Ambassador	Debater	Salesman

motivation?

Wisdom - “An artful method”

Strategy & Tactics

Strategy involves the big picture: “God’s Eye View” ...

- Sovereignty of God and an understanding of God as the “agent” of salvation and us as the “instrument”
- Strategically superior position because we have the _____.

Discussion:

- Does this guarantee “winning” every encounter?
 - What is our goal?
- Does the more knowledgeable person always win the argument*?
 - If not, why not?

**argument is not a bad word! here (not a dispute but a contest of ideas)*

Tactics (literally refer to “_____”)

The Faithful Tactician¹

Power -- Our power to be effective ambassadors comes through _____. (Acts 1:8)

Fruit -- Where the Spirit is, the fruits of the Spirit will be _____. Where the fruits of the Spirit are _____, the Spirit is not _____. (Gal 5:22-23)

¹ The Faithful Tactician section does not come from Greg Koukl’s materials.

A Faithful Tactical Approach (2 Cor 4:1-6)

- _____ -- v. 1 – *we do not lose heart.*
- _____ -- v. 2 – *renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways.*
- _____ -- v. 2 – *refuse to ... tamper with God's word*
- _____ -- v. 2 – *refuse to practice cunning ... but by the open statement of the truth*
- _____ -- v. 2 – *...commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.*
- _____ -- v. 5 – *For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord*

The Columbo Tactic “The queen mother of all the tactics”

Key to the Columbo tactic: The Christian goes on the _____ in a _____ way with _____ to productively advance the conversation.

Columbo: three uses, three questions. There are three basic ways to use the Columbo tactic that can tame the most belligerent critic, each launched by a different question.

Columbo Type I -- to gain information --learn _____ they think
 _____?
 (or some variation)

Can you repeat their view back to them to their satisfaction? If not, you aren't listening.

Examples:

- “There is no God.” *“What do you mean by ‘God’?”*
- “Reincarnation was taken out of the Bible.” *“What do you mean it was ‘taken out’?”*
- “All religions are basically the same.” *“In what way are religions all basically the same?”*
- “You shouldn’t be forcing your views on me.” *“Specifically, how am I ‘forcing’ my views on you?”*

It can be a casual conversation starter. *People are often “saying things” without talking...*

Example:

- *“I noticed that [cross, pentagram, yin-yang, Star of David, Virgin Mary] on your [necklace, tattoo, t-shirt, bumper sticker]. Does that have religious significance or is it just [jewelry, decoration ...]?”*
- *Other examples (from the class)? (see someone exasperated by a news report in a waiting room..)*

Staying out of the “hot seat”

- Here’s an easy way to buy yourself some thinking time: **Shift from argument mode to fact-finding mode.**
 - Say something like, “Carefully explain your view and your reasons for it so I get it right, then *let me think about it.* We can talk more later.”

So now you know what he thinks... *how does he think?*

Columbo Type II -- appropriately place the burden of proof--learn _____ they think
_____?
(or some variation)

This graciously assumes the non-Christian(?) has come to a conclusion, not just asserted or emoted.

Burden of proof: the _____ to defend or give evidence for one’s view

Rule: the one who _____ the claim _____ the burden.

Legitimate burden of proof reversal – the self-evident

Illegitimate burden of proof reversal – the professor’s ploy

Columbo Type I & II Exercise

- “Belief in God is irrational--there is no proof.”
 - Type I:
 - Type II:
- “I could never believe in a God who allows so much evil in the world”
 - Type I:
 - Type II:
- “More people have been killed in the name of religion than anything”
 - Type I:
 - Type II:
- “No Creed but Christ” [or ‘just give me Jesus’ or ‘doctrine divides’]
 - Type I:
 - Type II:
- “Intelligent design is religion, not science”
 - Type I:
 - Type II:
- “I personally don’t believe in abortion, but I think it is wrong to force my view on others”
 - Type I:
 - Type II:

Evangelism On-Ramp -- the good person test

?

Do you consider yourself to be a good person? *–very rarely will you get a “no”*

- May I ask you a few questions to see if that’s true? *–most are confident in their self-righteousness and say ‘yes’*
- God gave a standard of morality in the Ten Commandments... have you ever told a lie? [if asked back, admit that you have] ... *yes*
- Have you ever stolen anything (regardless of value)? ... *usually yes*
- Jesus said if you have looked upon a woman [someone] with lust, you’ve committed adultery in your heart, have you ever looked at someone with lust? *yes*
- Have you ever used the Lord’s name in vain or used it as a cussword? ... *often yes*

Remember, the Law brings a knowledge of sin ... *this is _____ legalism (where the law is taught as a means of salvation)*

- Gently! *“Help me out here. I’ve only stepped through four of God’s laws and you’ve broken [almost] every one of them. If you died today and God judged you by His standard, do you think you’d be found innocent or guilty?”*
*“God would forgive, God is love ... “ “God is also holy and loves justice... innocent or guilty?” *if cannot admit guilt, they are not yet ready for the good news.*
- *“On that basis, do you think you’d go to heaven or hell?”*
*“God would forgive, God is love ... “ “God is also holy and loves justice... heaven or hell?” *if cannot admit hell, they are not yet ready for the good news.*
- Does that concern you? (some say no because they don’t believe any of it **if so they are not yet ready for the good news)*

To proceed to the cross with any of these is to throw a life preserver to someone happily splashing around in a pool, offer a savior to someone who neither wants nor believes he needs one. It is “casting pearls before swine.” **It may well be necessary to leave them under the conviction of God’s Law in the care of God’s Spirit... don’t worry, they are in good hands!*

- If they admit their sin, that they deserve God’s judgment, and they are troubled by it (the more troubled the better! – broken and crying out of control is a good thing here.) *It’s time for God’s Amazing Grace in all its sweetness--pour it on!* *“You know, God has provided a way for you to be washed clean in His sight. Christ commands us to repent (and what that means is to turn away from our sin) and put our trust in Jesus Christ. Do you understand what He accomplished on the cross? ” ... explain the atonement ... explain adoption! ... [More comfort needed? Story of Saul of Tarsus (murder/persecutor of the church turned Apostle) and/or David (murderer/adulterer king remembered as “a man after God’s own heart” ref. Psalm 51 (repentance) and Psalm 32 (recollection).]*