

THE 12 POINTS THAT SHOW CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE

#1: THE TRUTH ABOUT REALITY IS KNOWABLE

Truth corresponds to its object.
 (The Law of Identity says that an object is what it is).
 Reality is knowable. (This is undeniable).
 Claiming you can't know reality is to claim to know reality.

#2: THE OPPOSITE OF TRUE IS FALSE

The Law of Non-Contradiction—
 Opposites cannot be true at the same time, way, and in the same sense.
 The Law of Non-Contradiction is undeniable.
 Anyone who tries to deny the law must use the law to disprove it.

#3: IT IS TRUE THAT A THEISTIC GOD EXISTS

COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

1. Everything that has a beginning has a cause.
2. The Universe has a beginning.
3. The Universe has a cause.

Second Law of Thermo-Dynamics
Universe Would have already run out of energy
Universe is Expanding
Rewind time and all comes from one point.
Radiation Echo
Proof of a Catastrophic Beginning
General Relativity
Predicts a Beginning of the Universe
End of an Infinite is not Possible
Today is the end of all days before today

TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

1. Every design has a designer.
2. The Universe and Life display design.
3. The Universe and Life have a Designer.

Anthropic Principle: the universe is currently fine tuned for life + **Principle of Uniformity:** causes in the past are like those in the present.
Conclusion: The universe in the past must have been designed since the present universe is designed.

Evidence that Natural Selection is Insufficient

Genetic limits	Nonviability of
Cyclical Change	Transitional Lifeforms
Irreducible Complexity	Molecular Isolation

MORAL ARGUMENT

1. Every law has a lawgiver.
2. There is an objective moral law.
3. Therefore, there is a moral Lawgiver.

Evidence for an Objective Moral Law:

- Morality is undeniable
- We can't know injustice without first understanding justice.
- Real moral disagreements require a moral law.
- If there is no moral law, then people wouldn't make excuses for breaking it.
- Progress isn't possible without a standard.
- The moral law is discovered not invented.
- Altruism cannot be explained naturalistically.

#4: SINCE GOD EXISTS, THEN MIRACLES ARE POSSIBLE

A miracle is a supernatural act of God.
 Miracles are not anomalies, psychosomatic, providential, or magical.
 Divine miracles have common characteristics

Unusual character	Doctrinal Dimension
Theological dimension	Teleological Dimension
Moral Dimension	

* Natural laws are descriptions, not prescriptions (against Spinoza)
 * The Evidence for regular events is not always greater than the evidence for rare events (against Hume)

#5: MIRACLES CAN BE USED TO CONFIRM A MESSAGE FROM GOD

If a theistic God exists, miracles are possible.
 A miracle is a special act of a theistic God.
 A theistic God is all knowing (omniscient) and morally perfect Being.
 An all-knowing, all-perfect God cannot err or deceive.
 Hence, a theistic God would not act to confirm something as true that was false.
 Therefore, true miracles in connection with a message confirm that message to be from God: *The miracle confirms the message, sign confirms the sermon, an act of God confirms the Word of God, and new revelation requires new confirmation.*

#6: THE NEW TESTAMENT IS HISTORICALLY RELIABLE

ACCURATE TEXT	RELIABLE TEXT				
Earlier MSS More MSS (5800+) More Accurately Copied Widely Quoted Widely Translated Widely Distributed	EYEWITNESS	EMBARRASSING	EXCRUCIATING	EXPECTED	EXTRA-BIBLICAL
	First Century Commentaries Exist Even critics date 1 Corinthians early	Disciples are Rebuked Portrayed as Cowards The truth is the only motivation to retain these	The culture shock of moving from Moses to Christ. The difficult sayings of	The Old Testament predicts Jesus' birth place, death, resurrection, activities, and life story.	Historians confirm the Bible and no archeology refutes the claims of the Bible.

There is no good reason or motivation for so many eyewitnesses to fabricate a story that causes them persecution and misery with no hope of earthly wealth.

#7: THE NT WRITERS AND JESUS CLAIMED HE WAS GOD

Jesus Claimed He is God

Jn 8:58-59—Jesus is "I AM"
 Yahweh of the OT is Jesus of the NT (Psa 23:1/Jn 10:11)
 Mk 2:5-7—Jesus is equal with God
 Jn 10:30-33—Jesus is one with God
 Jn 4:25—Jesus is Messiah-God
 John 5:22-23—Jesus is worthy of honor due to God.
 Jn 20:28—Jesus claimed to be worthy of Worship
 Mt 24:35—Jesus is equal in authority to God.
 Jn 14:13-14 Jesus is the object of Prayer

The NT Writers Claimed Jesus is God

Matthew 1:23
 Mark 1:1
 Luke 1:35
 John 1:1
 Romans 9:5
 2 Peter 1:1
 Hebrews 1:3

#9: THEREFORE JESUS IS GOD

#10: SINCE JESUS IS GOD, WHATEVER HE TEACHES IS TRUE

#11: JESUS TAUGHT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

Divine Authority (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10)
 Imperishable (Mt. 5:17-18)
 Infallible (Jn. 10:35)
 Inerrant (without error) (Mt. 22:29)
 Historically Reliable (Mt 12:40;
 Mt. 24:37-38)
 Scientifically Accurate (Mt. 19:4-5)
 Ultimate Supremacy (Mt. 15:3, 6)

The Short Argument of Inerrancy

1. God cannot Err.
2. The Word of God cannot Err.
3. The Bible which is the Word of God cannot err.

#8: JESUS DEMONSTRATED HIS DIVINITY

- He fulfilled many prophecies about himself.
- His sinless life (confirmed by: himself, Disciples, Paul and Hebrews, and enemies who could find no evil in him)
- His miraculous Life (witnessed by: 35 miracles in the gospels, Nicodemus, Peter appealed to miracles, book of Hebrews claimed Jesus did miracles)
- His prediction and accomplishment of the Resurrection

#12: THEREFORE, THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD AND ANYTHING OPPOSED TO IT IS FALSE

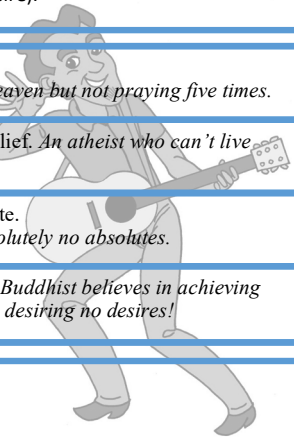
CONVERSATIONAL EVANGELISM



- LEARN** - THEIR STORY
- INVEST** - TIME IN THEM
- SEARCH** - FOR GAPS IN THEIR BELIEFS
- THROW** - LIGHT (IN CONVERSATION) BY CLARIFYING
- EXPOSE** - GAPS BY SURFACING UNCERTAINTY
- NAVIGATE** - USING THE 3-D'S

SUMMARIZING THE CONVERSATIONAL EVANGELISM MODEL

As we listen to them we also want to learn their story by investing some time in them. As we're doing this, we also want to search for gaps in their beliefs. As we talk to them we also want to throw some light on the conversation by clarifying their beliefs. Yet we also want to expose the cracks in their beliefs and surface uncertainty by asking them thought-provoking questions. Finally we want to navigate the conversation carefully by keeping the three Ds in mind (Doubt, Defensiveness, Desire).



STEP 1: HEAR THE SOUR NOTES

- Listen carefully to determine where they are coming from
- Learn their story (where they are in their spiritual journey)
- Hear the sour notes people are "singing" to us
- Seek for clarification... Ask yourself:
 - What do they believe?
 - What worldview framework do they hold?
 - What do their hearts long for that Jesus can provide?
 - What are the sour notes that I hear?
 - What are the inconsistencies in their belief systems?

BELIEF VS. HEART LONGING	Believing one thing but wanting something else. <i>A Muslim who believes good deeds gets him to heaven but not praying five times.</i>
BELIEF VS. BEHAVIOR	Believing one thing but acting contrary to that belief. <i>An atheist who can't live without nonmaterial things like truth and love.</i>
BELIEF VS. BELIEF	Believing one thing but also believing the opposite. <i>An extreme postmodernist believes there are absolutely no absolutes.</i>
ILLOGICAL BELIEF	Believing something that is self-contradictory. <i>A Buddhist believes in achieving nirvana by letting go of desires, but that requires desiring no desires!</i>

STEP 2: ILLUMINATE THE CONVERSATION

- Help** people surface the truth for themselves.
- Determine** the impact of your question by asking whether it
- surfaces **doubt** (uncertainty)
 - while it minimizes **defensiveness**
 - yet creates a **desire** (curiosity) to hear more
- Remember** to focus on those stand-out inconsistencies rather than pointing out all inconsistencies.

FURTHER AMPLIFICATIONS

- What do you mean when you say...?
- How is it possible...?
 - Ask yourself, what is one key question that could surface some doubt about their current beliefs?
 - Ask yourself, am I asking the question in a way that will make it difficult for them to get defensive right away?
 - Ask yourself, am I ending the spiritual dialogue in a way that they might be willing to continue the conversation later or even hear more what I'm saying about Jesus?
 - Ask yourself, what is one key thing I can focus on that could unlock openness for further dialogue?

STEP 3: UNCOVER OBSTACLES

- UNCOVER** THE REAL BARRIERS TO THE GOSPEL (dig up history to find what put them on their current path).
- To Uncover:
- So what you're saying is...
 - If you could know, would you want to?
 - If I could answer your questions in a way that would make sense to you, would that help you to more seriously consider a belief in God and Christianity?
 - Out of all your questions, what is that one question that is keeping you from embracing Christianity?
 - What do you consider to be the biggest obstacle in your religious tradition that keeps you from Christianity?

BARRIERS/OBSTACLES

- Is the issue real or a smokescreen?
 - Is the barrier intellectual and/or emotional?
 - What is the specific emotional baggage they carry?
 - What's the question behind the question?
 - What is the biggest perceived barrier to embracing the Christian faith?
 - What would motivate them to get answers?
 - What is the volitional barrier?
- INTELLECTUAL BARRIERS:** Knowledge/Deception
EMOTIONAL BARRIERS: History/Implications
VOLITIONAL BARRIERS: No desire to change

OBSTACLES IN UNDERSTANDING

- No differences in religions (pluralism).
- Not understanding the nature of sin.
- Misunderstanding salvation is by faith not works.
- Reconciling the problem of evil with the existence of God.

OBSTACLES IN EMBRACING

- Sinful selfish nature (Jeremiah 17:9)
- Concern with money (thorny soil)
- Feeling negative towards Christians because they think they have the only way to God.
- Being spiritually indifferent.

STEP #4: BUILD A POSITIVE CASE FOR CHRIST

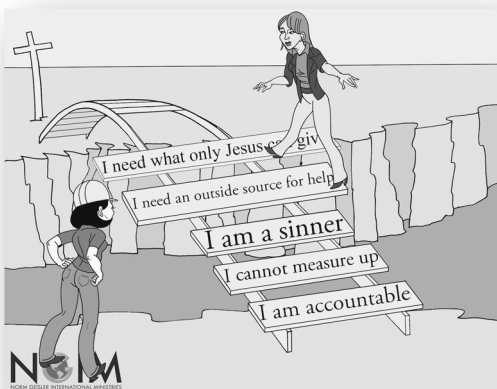
- Balance Objective vs. Subjective Experience.
- Find common ground in the discussion.
- Find a strategy for bridge building.
- Build the bridge without losing the goal. *don't win arguments and lose people.*
- How can you open the door to the Gospel?

HEAD BRIDGE (OBJECTIVE)

Use the 12 Points as a guide and start where they have issues. For example, Muslims accept the first 5 points, where as with an atheist, point 3 is the starting place.

HEART BRIDGE (SUBJECTIVE)

Connect with the way Jesus taught love and offer personal testimony and story as well as talking about a life well lived (something most everyone desires).



USING THE FIVE PLANKS

- First, I am accountable to my Creator in some way.
- Second, I don't measure up (my problem is not just that I don't measure up to God's standard, I don't even measure up to my own standard).
- Third, I am a sinner (Once someone accepts planks 1 and 2, they may be more willing to admit plank 3)
- Fourth, I need an outside source for help. (I owe a debt that I can never pay back).
- Fifth, I need what only Jesus can give

The key is getting them to agree to the first plank that not only a Creator does exist but that we are accountable to this Creator in some way. If you can do that, the other planks may more easily follow.



WORLDVIEW REPLACEMENT

THE ISSUE OF WORLDVIEW

“...a major cause of our current crisis consists of a world view shift from a Judeo-Christian understanding of reality to a post-Christian one.”
J.P. Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind*, pg. 21

THREE MAJOR RELIGIOUS WORLD VIEWS



THE THEISTIC WORLDVIEW

- God exists BEYOND and IN the world.
- God created the world from nothing.
- Miracles are possible and have occurred.
- Humans are made in God’s image.
- The Moral Law exists.
- Humans are immortal.
- Humans will be rewarded or punished.

THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- The truth of Christianity rests on the existence and attributes of God. God is necessary for Christianity to be true.
- But to know about God, foundational beliefs enable us to clearly understand God’s attributes. With the wrong foundation or the wrong philosophy, we will misunderstand God or completely reject him.
- In this way the foundational beliefs lead to a clear knowledge of God, who in turn provides the basis for Christianity.

The Foundational Beliefs are:

- Absolute truth exists.
- We can know the truth.
- Truth Corresponds to reality.



DEFINITION OF WORLDVIEW

“A worldview is a way of viewing or interpreting all of reality. It is an interpretive framework through which or by which one makes sense out of the data of life and the world.”

Norm Geisler, *Worlds Apart*, pg. 11

ENGAGING WORLDVIEWS

How we dialogue depends on their worldview (their perspective).

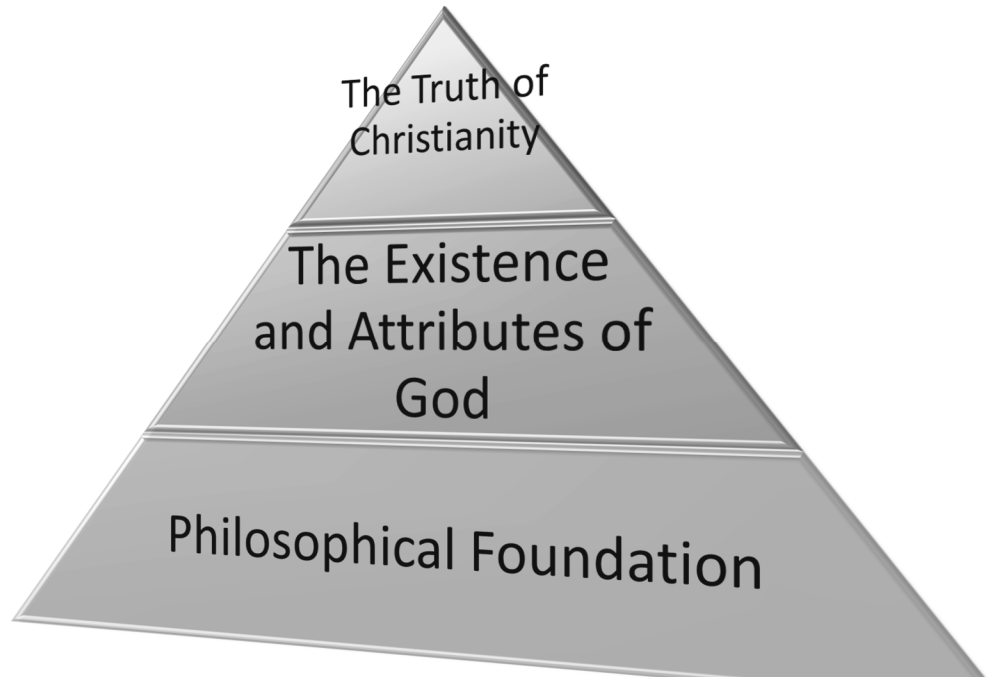
Acts 28—Paul address the Jews: He persuades them from the Law and Prophets.
Acts 17—Paul address the Philosophers: He persuades them from Nature.

If we engage an atheist, we have to at least demonstrate God exists before we can talk about the Word of God, the Son of God, and the Salvation from God.

If we engage a Muslim, they already believe in truth, God, and miracles (points 1 through 5). We begin by demonstrating the New Testament is reliable and clearly demonstrates that Jesus is the Son of God.

If we engage a Hindu, we must begin at point 1 and discuss a reality with truth and one God who is exclusively God. Otherwise Christianity is just another way to whatever we think might be God.

In short: meet them where they are, and CE helps uncover where they are.



DISCOVERING WORLDVIEWS

“Essentially this is a ‘pattern-matching process.’ I have in my mind a large number of contemporary worldviews and know the kinds of beliefs and values to which they lead.” Then I consider the beliefs and values being expressed by a person and I look for the best match (or selection of matches) to identify the underlying worldview or worldviews.” - Nick Pollard, *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*, pg. 50

REMEMBER THE 3 D’S

- Am I asking questions in a way that surfaces their doubt (uncertainty) about their own perspective,
- While at the same time minimizes their defensiveness, and
- Yet creates a desire (curiosity) to want to hear more?

Based on *Conversational Evangelism*, 2nd Edition, David Geisler and Norm Geisler, 2014

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