

TALKING TO NON-BELIEVERS ABOUT JESUS

-Thomas Setliff

7/22/18

Who are we talking about?

“While a lot of non-believers don’t really do much when it comes to acting on their non-belief, for those who are trying to create a more organized atheist community that takes up activism and offers community, there is plenty of reason to hope. The Intellectual, the Activist and the Anti-theist all, to one extent or another, discuss their non-belief with others or let their non-belief have significant impact on their activities. Taken together, they make up *nearly three-quarters* of non-believers. That’s a big group that has a lot in common, and perhaps that energy could be harnessed as a *force of good*.”

Truth

Truth

- “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6
- John 18:38 “Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’ “
- “So they are without excuse” Rom 1:19-20
- “rightly handling the word of truth” 2 Tim 2:15

Strategy & Approach

Strategy

- Why do you need one?
- What do you know about this person(s)?
- What do they know about you?
- What is going to be your biggest hurdle with them?

Strategy

- What key things do we want them to know?
- What exactly do you want them to know about Jesus?
- Everyone wants to know why something should matter to them. So why does Jesus matter?

Common ground

- Chris Pratt statements at the generation award from MTV
- Historicity: generally all scholars and historians agree that Jesus existed
- The witness testimony process we see in the bible. These people died for what they believed in and testified for
- Faith: We all have it in something

Approach

Approach

- A real car ad from craigslist

“1994 BMW 530i Touring. Very high mileage, mis-matched tires, leaky sunroof, useless spare tire, ripped leather upholstery, and a broken cigarette lighter. But it has Ultimate Power, Extreme Sound (except for a broken rear speaker) and a “secondary response system.” All for only \$2,800!”

- A simple statement

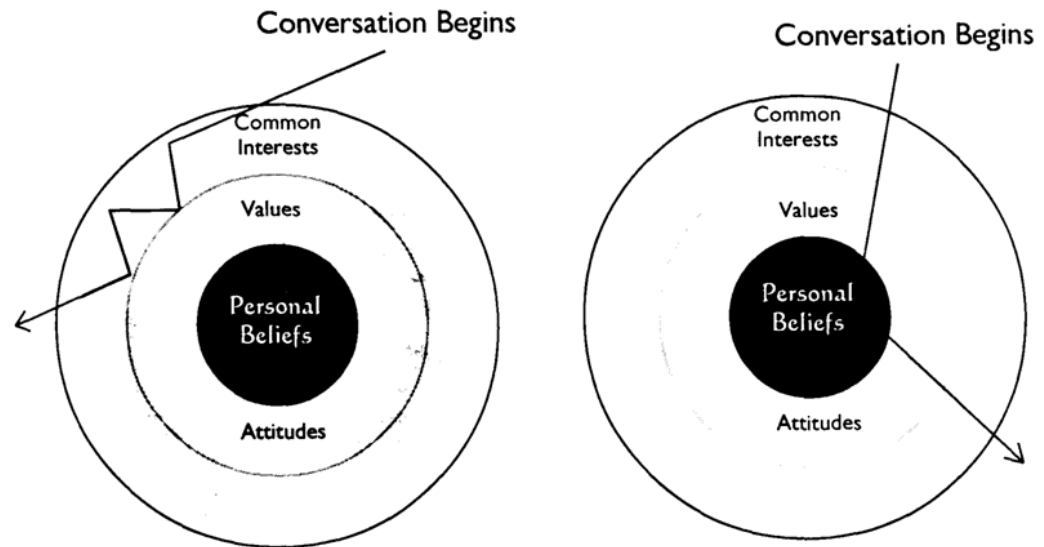
My faith means a lot to me. I study the bible because I believe it to be true and I find great strength in Jesus and my church family that I have come to know and love.

- Ask Questions

Approach

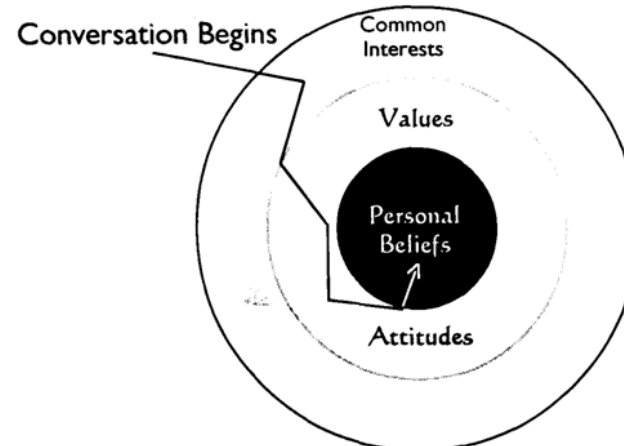
We want to have an effect on their personal beliefs

Three Ways to Converse About Christ



Approach A: Miss and Run

Approach B: Hit and Run



Approach C: Raise Question & Make a Point

Approach

- Dealing with who you are
 - Everyone has bias. Unconscious bias too
 - They will see you a certain way and that will shape how they process what you tell them
- Establishing Truth
 - This may sound easier than it actually is for reasons already stated
 - It is possible and much more likely in a one-on-one approach
- Willingness to talk about the difficult issues

Common Mistakes

- Let's debate evolution!
- Immediately talking about sin instead of grace
- Personal attacks/judgements being passed
- Ignoring their concerns/considering them invalid
- Acting like you know it all
- Not being ready to appropriately call out the injustices of many "Christians" that mis-use scripture, abuse the churches money, or even the members.
- No hospitality: Inviting them to church too soon instead of your house

Key Takeaways

- Talking to non-believers can be tough. Have a strategy and accept the challenge
- People will seek answers to whatever questions they have. If we don't give them a response someone or something else will
- We won't always know when we are getting through, but we must keep trying
- Approach everyone with humility and respect
- Remember the Golden Rule