



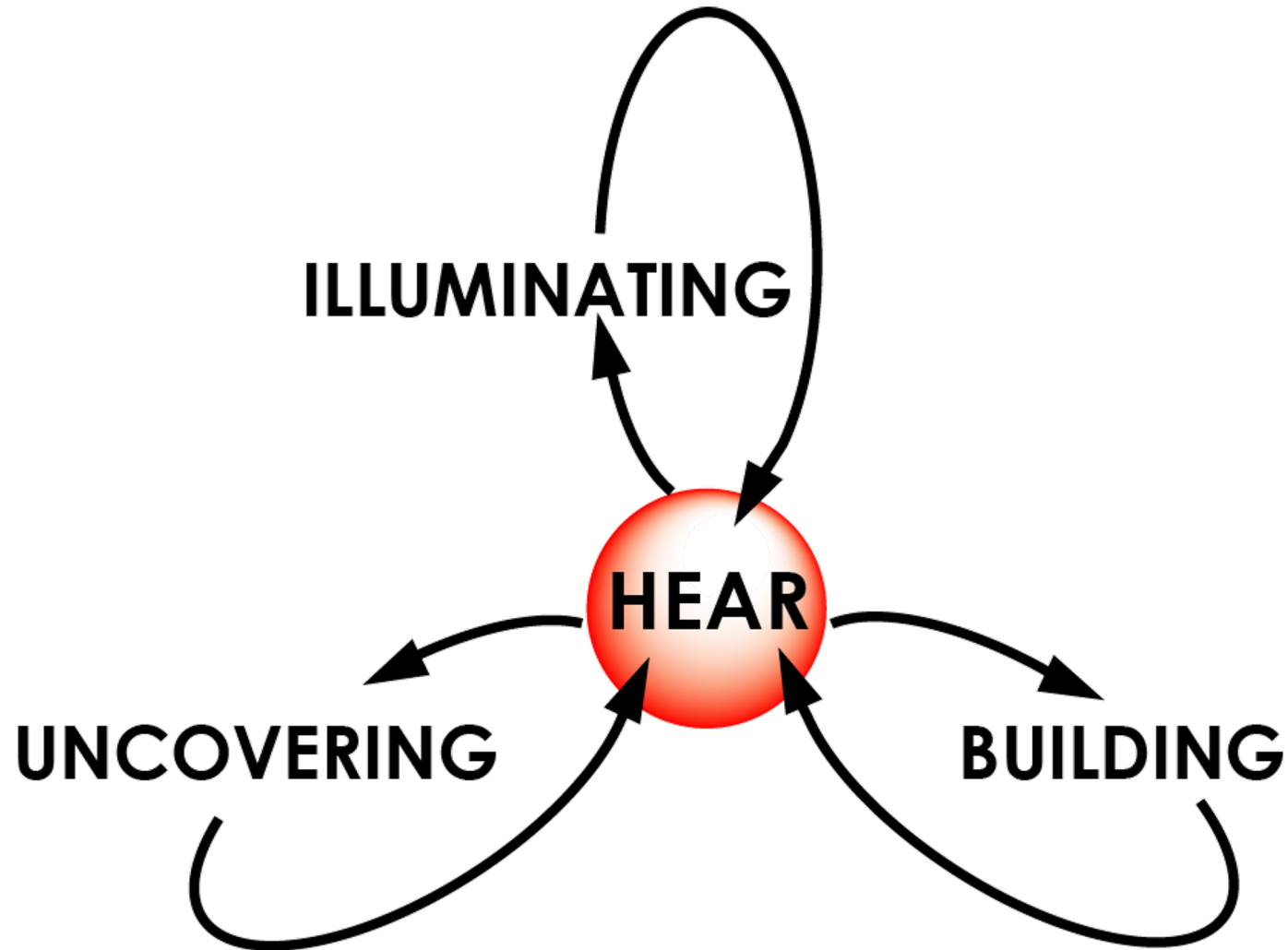
BUILDING

Dr. David Geisler

Conversational

EVANGELISM

4 Types of Conversations We Want to Have with Non-believers



4 Types of Roles You Need to Play in Your Friend's Life



Musician



Artist

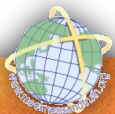


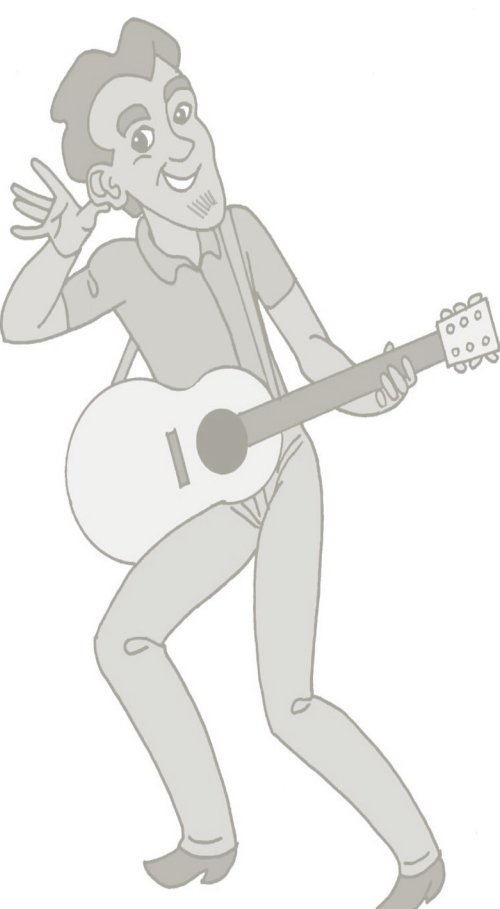
Archeologist



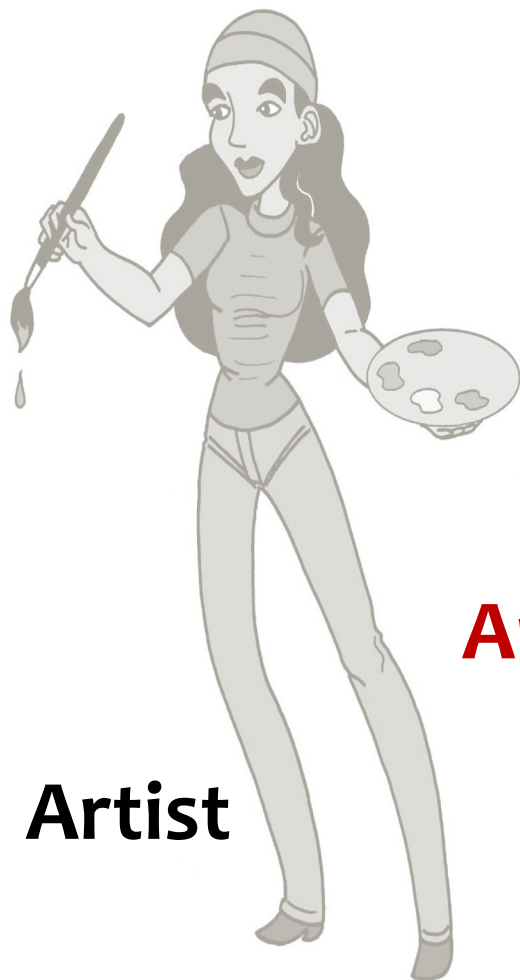
Builder

NOGIM
NORM GEISLER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES





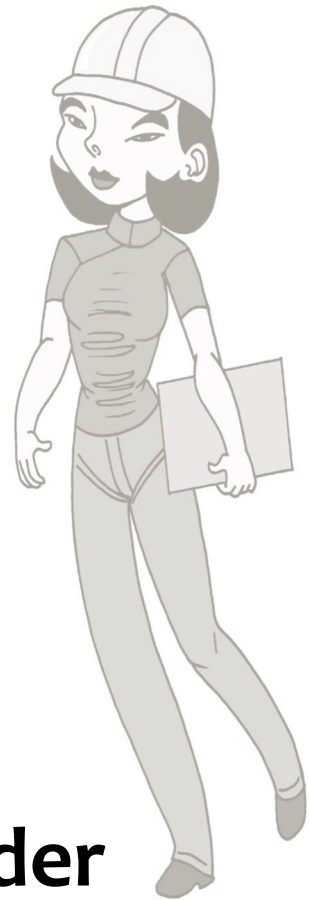
Musician



Artist



Archeologist



Builder



Uncovering Real Barriers

Hear
Illuminate
Uncover
Build



Uncovering Barriers Between Them and God (*review*)

1. Determine whether their *perceived* issue is a real concern, or a **smoke screen**.
2. Determine the **nature** of their *perceived* barrier (intellectual, emotional, or a combination of both).
3. Uncover the **specific** emotional baggage that they are carrying.
4. Determine whether there is a **question or concern** behind the question or issue raised.
5. Find out what their biggest **barrier** is to Christianity.
6. Find out what would **motivate** them to get answers in these areas.
7. Uncover the **volitional factors**.



Uncovering Barriers Between Them and God

Determine whether the perceived issue is a real concern or a smokescreen.

Investigate the nature of their perceived barriers

Gain an understanding of their specific emotional baggage

Grapple with the concerns and or issues behind their questions

Inquire as to their biggest perceived barrier

Nurture their quest to get answers

Get them to acknowledge their volitional barriers are the most difficult



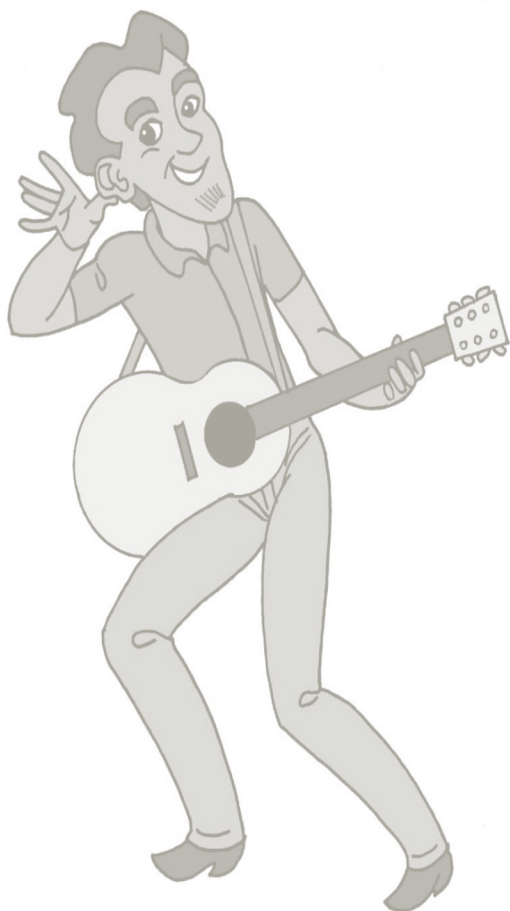
Build a Bridge to the Gospel



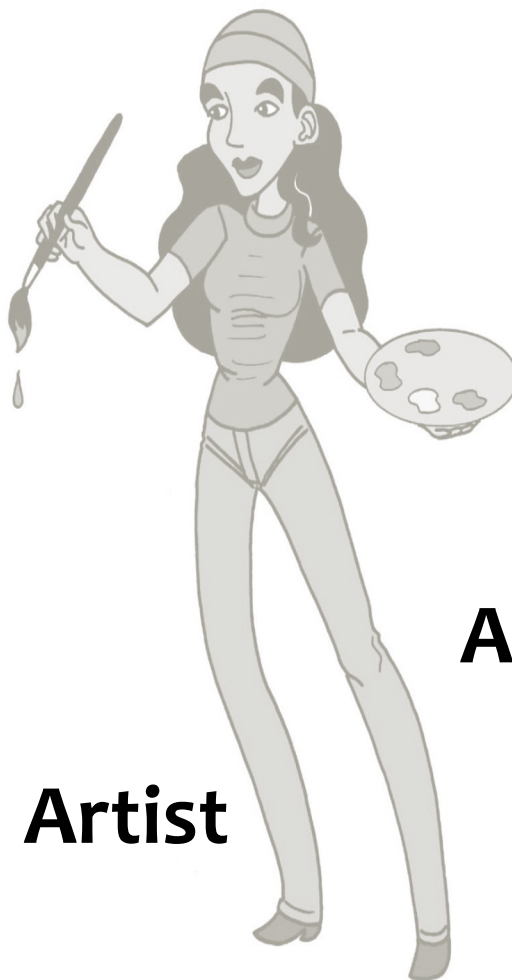
Hear
Illuminate
Uncover
Build



Build a Bridge to the Gospel



Musician



Artist



Archeologist



Builder



4 Types of Roles You Need to Play in Your Friend's Life



Musician



Artist



Archeologist



Builder

NOGIM
NORM GEISLER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES



Build a Bridge to the Gospel



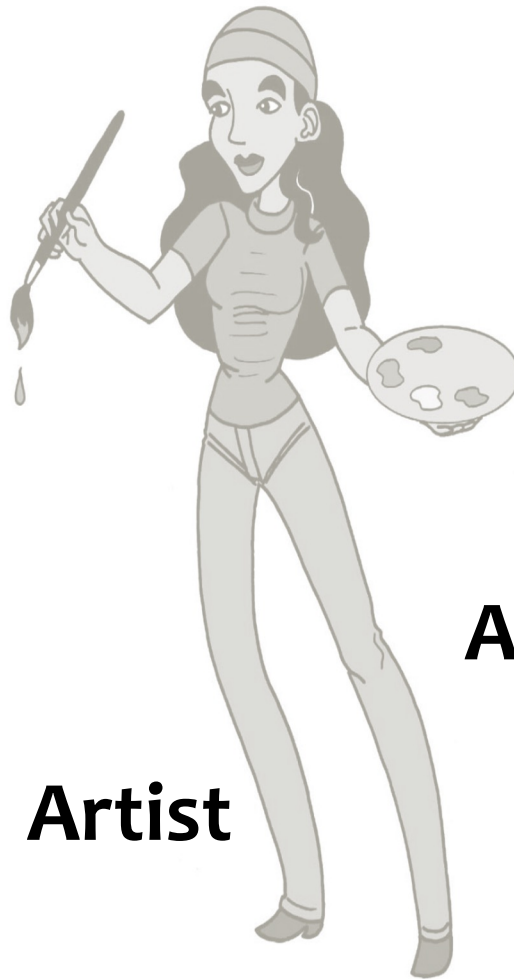
Hear
Illuminate
Uncover
Build



Build a Bridge to the Gospel



Musician



Artist



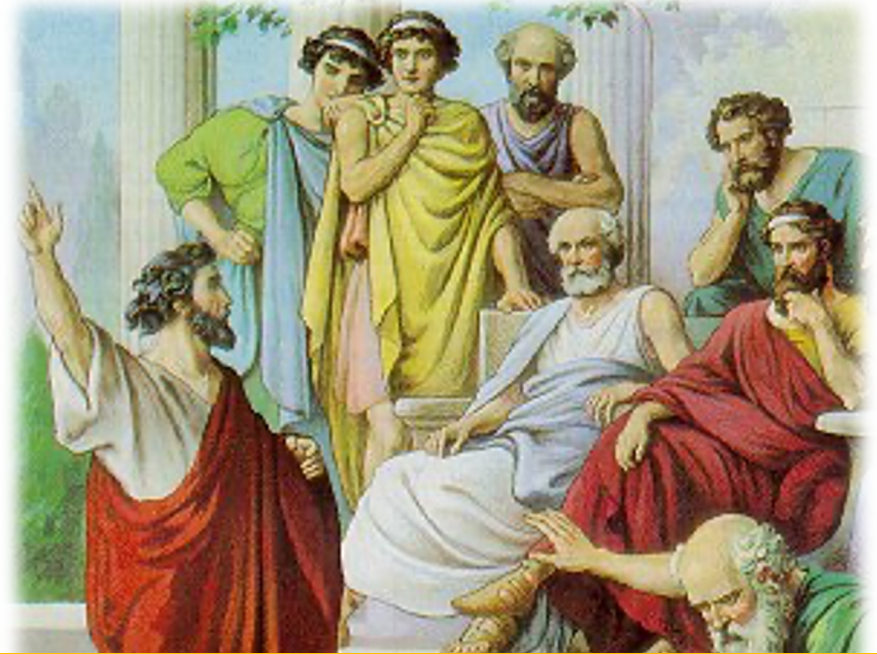
Archeologist



Builder



Sharing the Gospel in Today's World



**If the Apostle Paul were living in the U.S.,
how would he witness to people today?**



Building a Bridge to the Gospel

❖ **He would have to take into consideration those we need to better reach**

1. **Those who don't see the need for radical change since they are already going to church.**
2. **Those who see no difference between Christianity and other religions.**
3. **Those who do not see themselves as sinners and therefore have no need for a savior.**



Building a Bridge to the Gospel

❖ Those we need to better reach

1. Those who don't see the need for radical change since they are already going to church.

* They may “*believe that*” Jesus is the Messiah... but have never “*believed in*” Him. (Js. 2:19)



On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. (Matt. 7:22-23)





The Outsider Interviews Seattle Outsiders

“Charlie describes
Christlike”



Building a Bridge to the Gospel

❖ **Those we need to better reach**

2. **Those who see no difference between Christianity and other religions and therefore see no need to hear what we have to say about Jesus.**

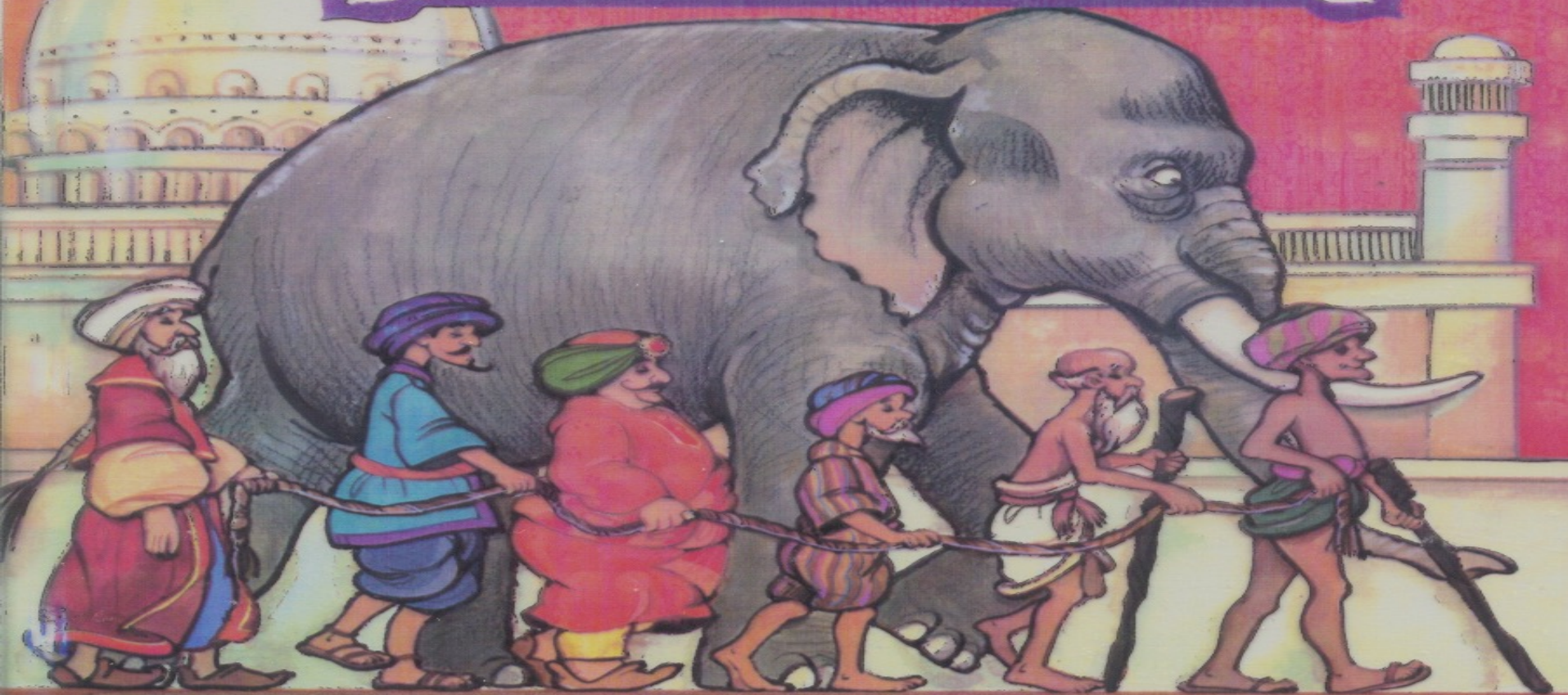


RELIGIOUS PLUARLISM

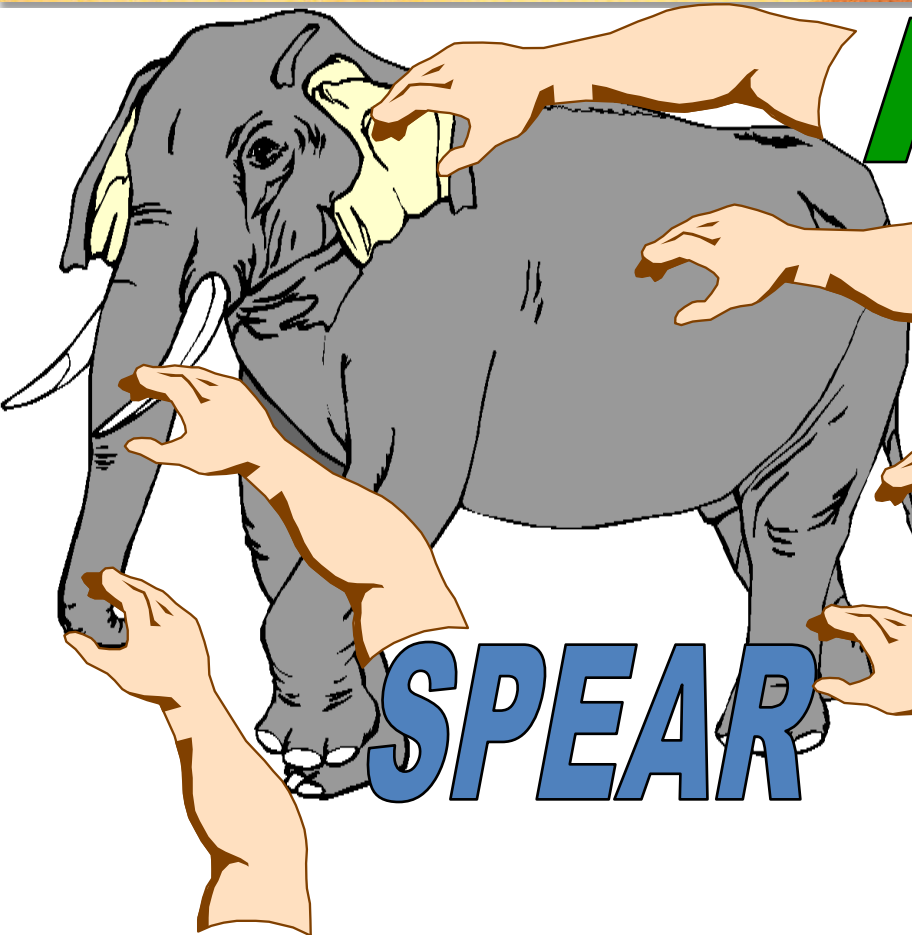
I believe *All* religions are true.



Six Blind Men and the Elephant



Six Blind Men



FAN

WALL

ROPE

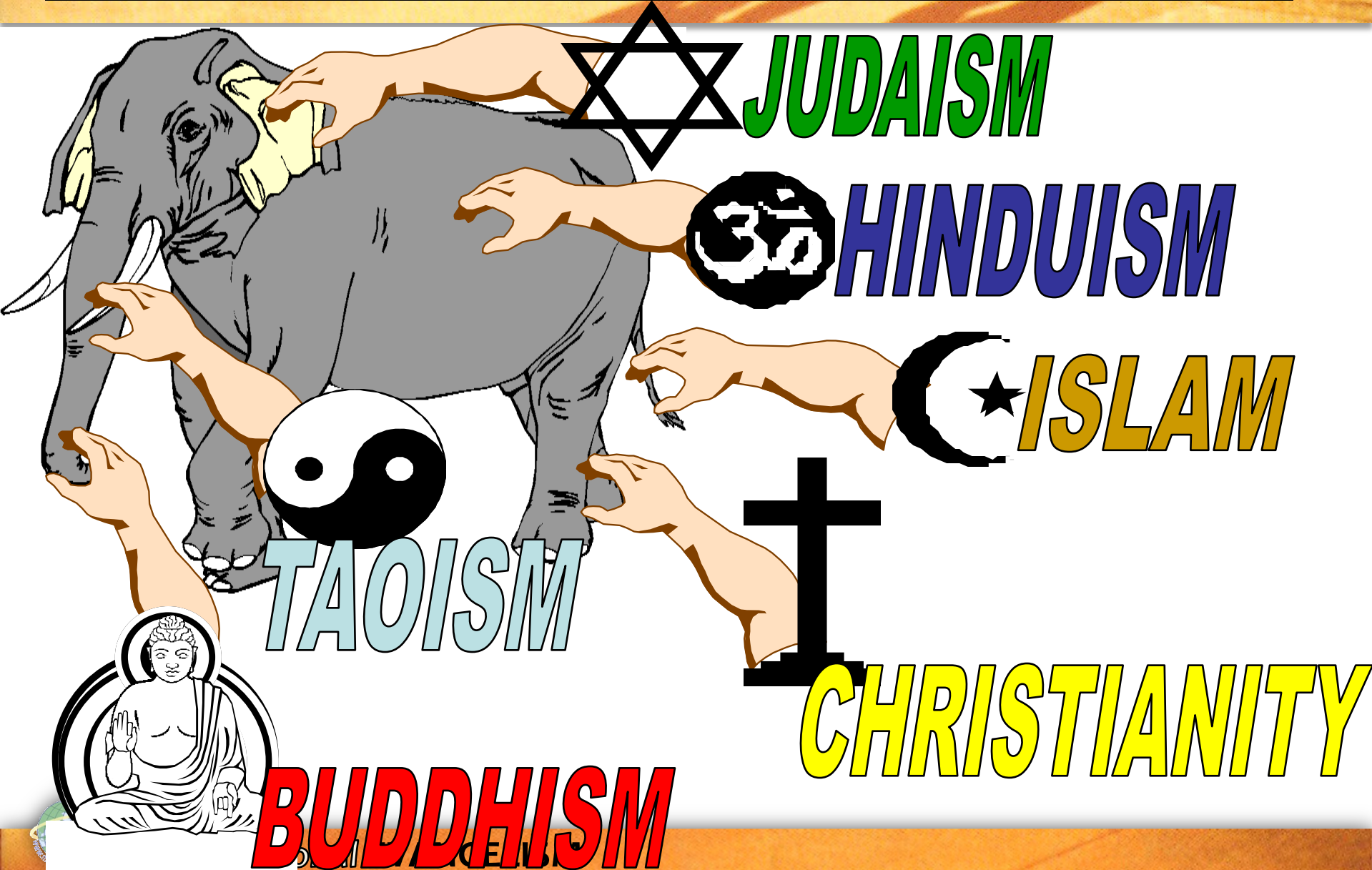
SPEAR

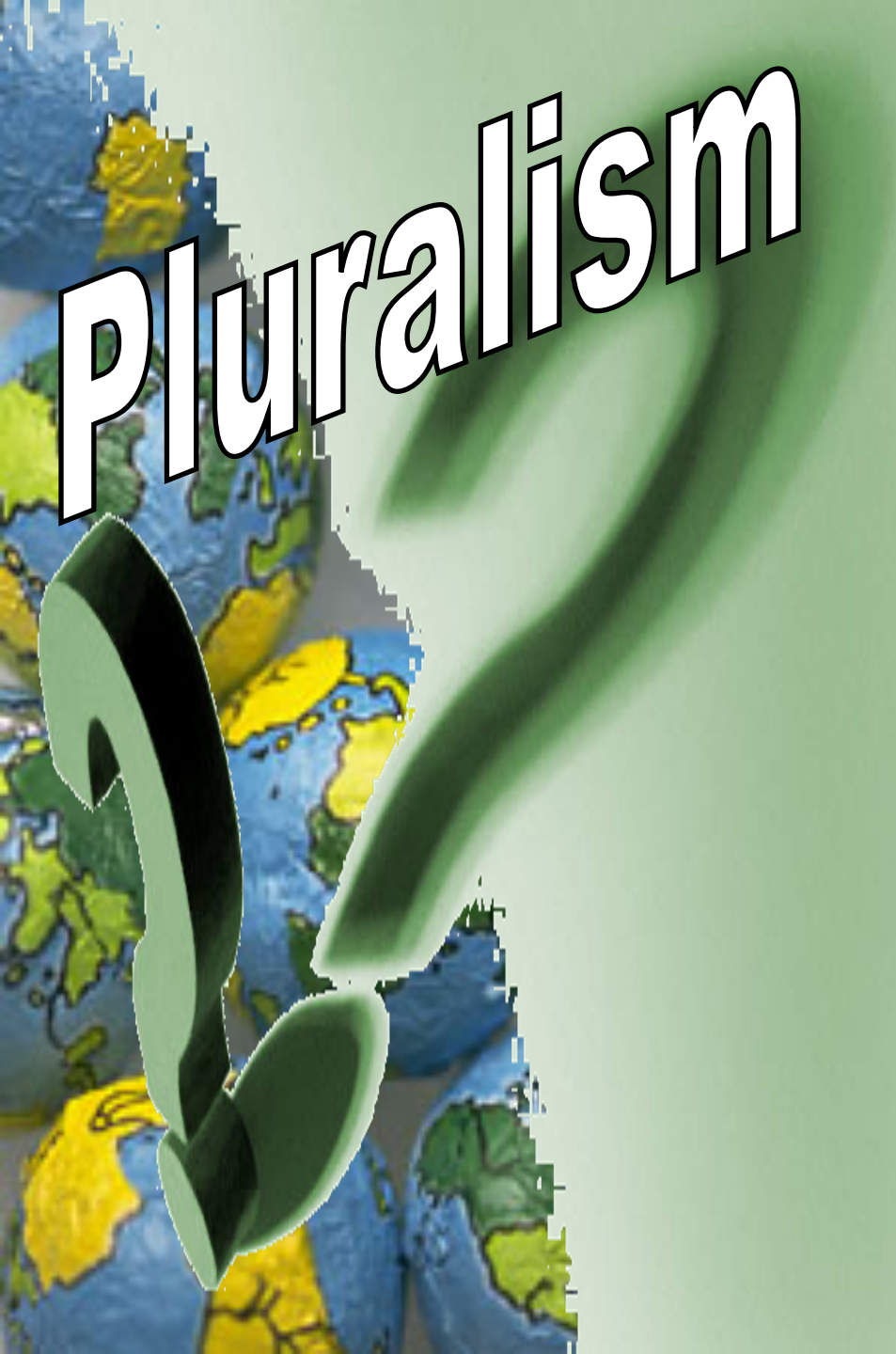
TREE

SNAKE



RELIGIONS





Pluralism



If all views are true

then nothing is true!

Pluralism





Pluralism

*If you embrace
everything
you stand
for nothing!*

The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of Earth globes. Each globe is rendered in a stylized, slightly pixelated or low-resolution manner, showing continents in yellow and green and oceans in blue. The globes are arranged in a grid-like pattern, overlapping slightly. The overall color palette is dominated by the blues, greens, and yellows of the Earth, with a light green vertical band on the left side.

Pluralism

***Does not provide
much hope!***

***If there can
be no one
right answer,***

***How can there
be any hope?***

The Bodily Resurrection of Christ is the Cornerstone for the Christian Faith (1 Cor. 15:14)

- Remember that same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us to live transformed lives.

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.”

Rom. 8:11 (NIV)

Building a Bridge to the Gospel

3. Those who do not see themselves as sinners... and so have difficulty seeing the need for a Savior.

*** We will address this issue next week.**



Building a Bridge to the Gospel

❖ Those we need to better reach

1. Those who don't see the need for radical change.
2. Those who see no difference between Christianity and other religions.
3. Those who do not see themselves as sinners.



Building a Bridge to the Gospel

GOAL:

To find common ground
and build a bridge to the Gospel

HOW:

Keep six steps in mind

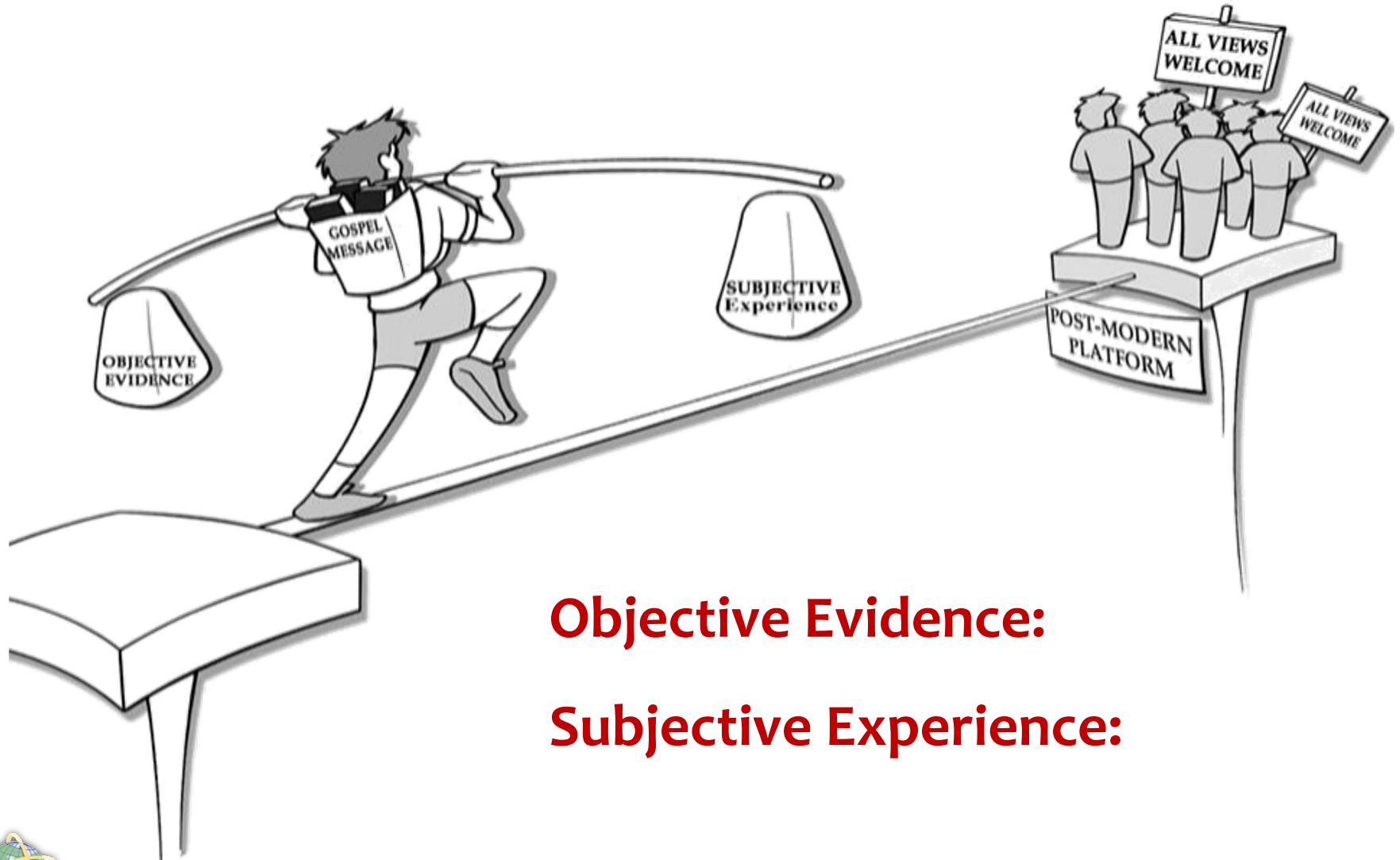


Building a Bridge to the Gospel (Jn. 8:32)

1. Find the Right Balance in your approach.



1. Find the Right Balance

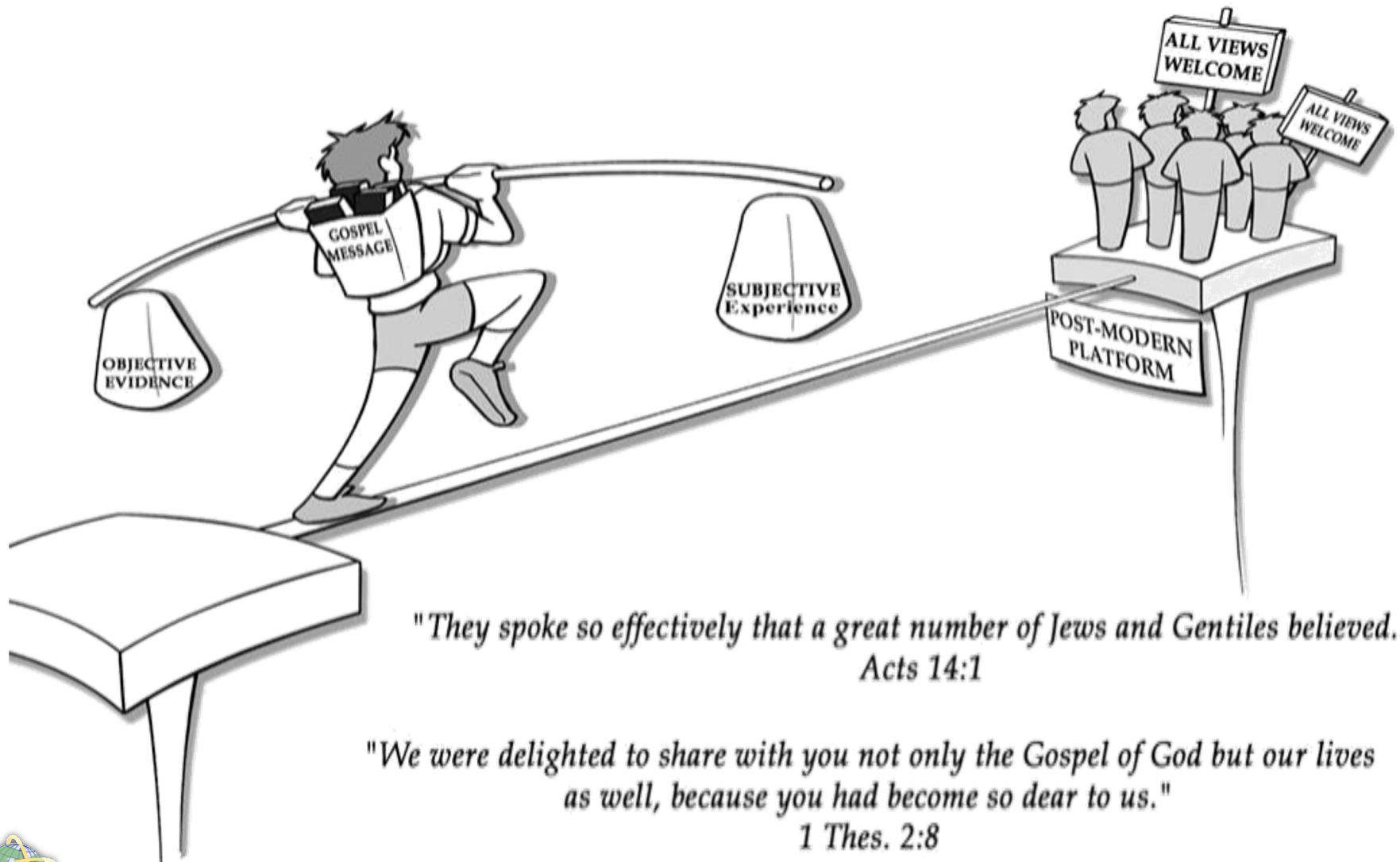


Objective Evidence:

Subjective Experience:



1. Find the Right Balance

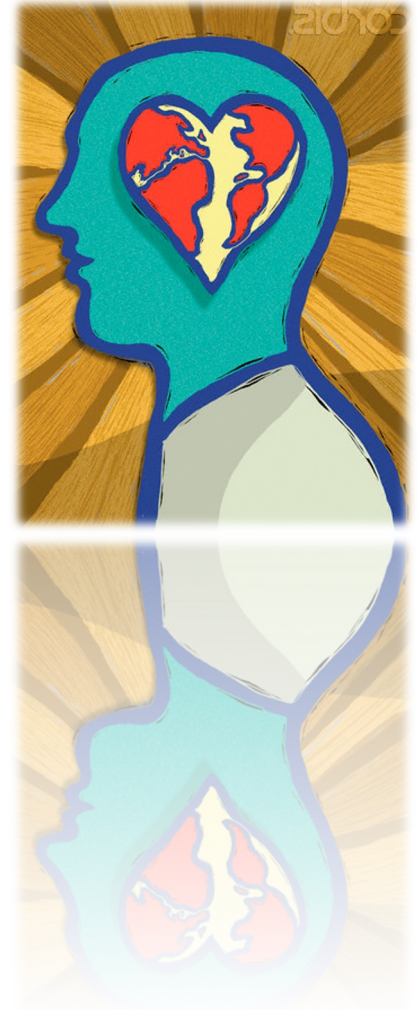


Why a Purely Intellectual Approach to Reaching Asians is Insufficient

“Unlike the Western mindset, which is comfortable with the dichotomy between words and deeds, theory and praxis; the Eastern mindset tends to see the person as a whole.

As a result of this holistic outlook, intellectual arguments alone do not appeal to the Eastern mind. There is a need to see evidence of filial piety, respect and good works.”

Former student at East Asia School of Theology



Be Mindful of the Fact That Your Life Will Speak Louder than Your Words

“Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:14 (NIV)

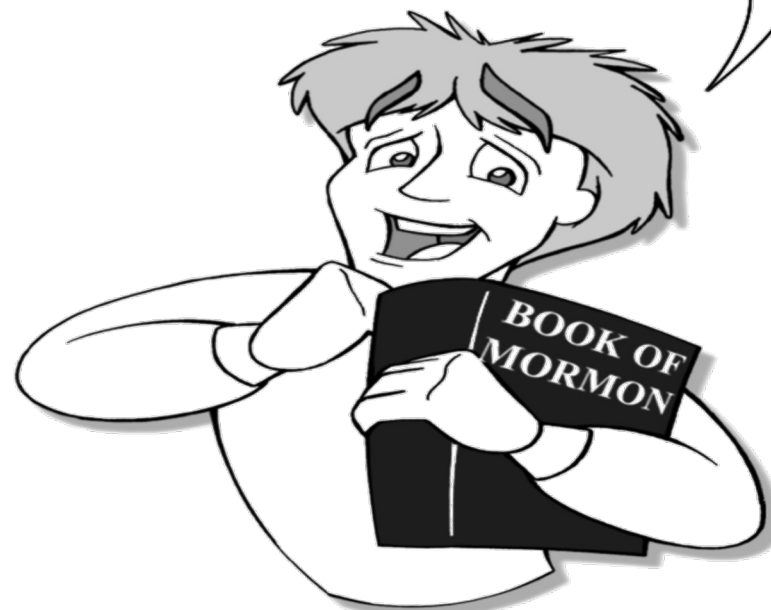


How are They Supposed to Differentiate?

I've experienced
Christ in my life,
that is how I know
it is true.



I've received the
burning in my bosom,
so I know it is true.



*"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless."
1 Cor. 15:17*



Building a Bridge to the Gospel (Jn. 8:32)

1. Find the Right Balance in your approach.
2. **Find Common Ground with those you are trying to reach.**



Building a Bridge to the Gospel (Jn. 8:32)

2. Find Common Ground with those you are trying to reach

“To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22



2. Find Common Ground

- **Build conversations with others based on common interest, hobbies, or some kind of connection.**



Topics for your neighbors, co-workers, and/or classmates.

- What are some topics that you can talk about to build connections to those in your circle of influence?



THE SOUND BARRIERS IN WITNESSING



There are sound barriers in witnessing today that must be broken before this may open a door for us to share Christ with others!



THE SOUND BARRIERS IN WITNESSING



Kinds of Conversations We Want To Have With Our Not-Yet-Christian Friends



THE SOUND BARRIERS IN WITNESSING



Moving a general conversation to a spiritual conversation.

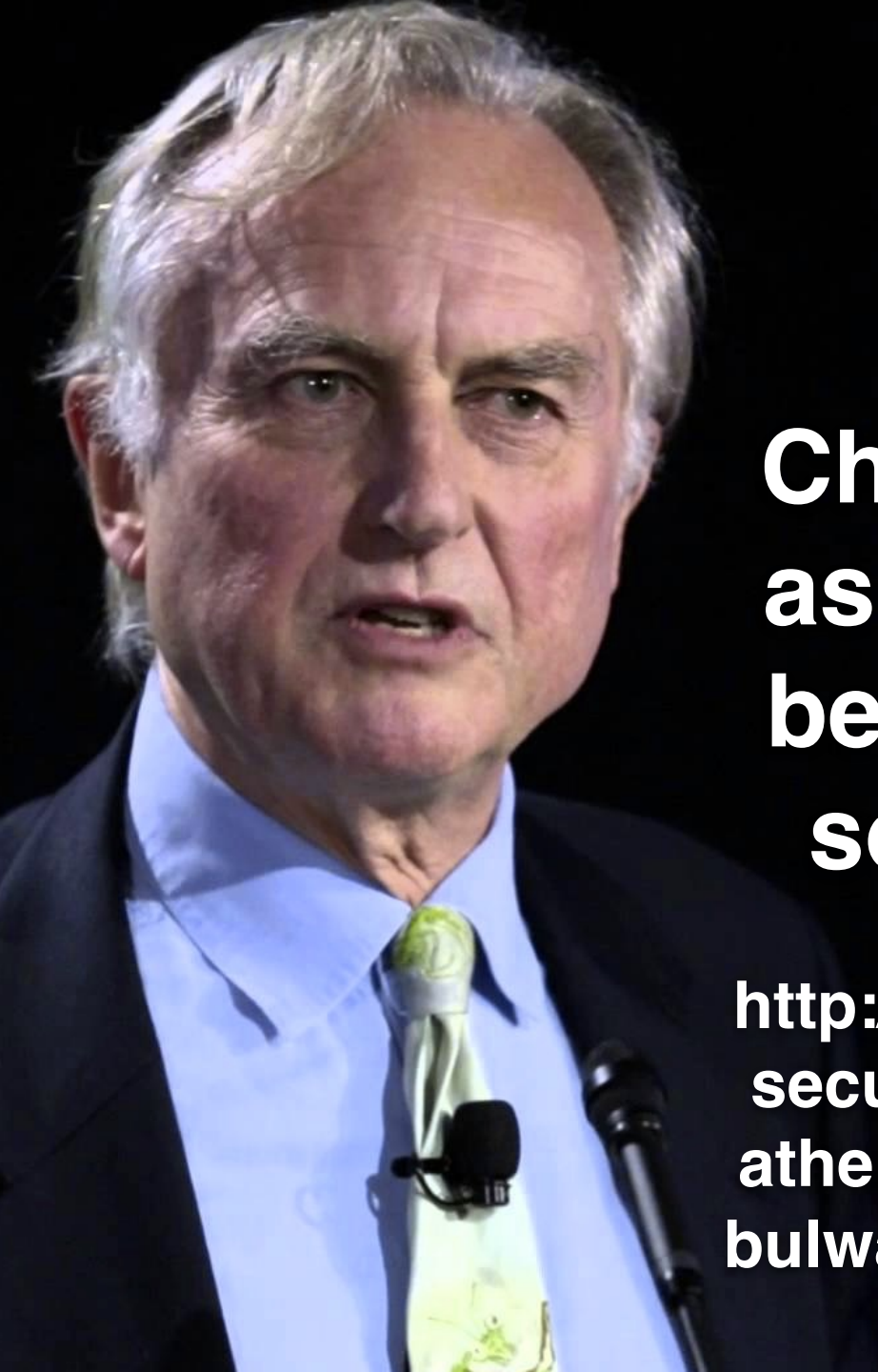
Moving a spiritual conversation to a Gospel Conversation.

Moving from a Gospel conversation to a decision to accept Christ.



We can even find common ground with people like Richard Dawkins.

Evolutionist Richard Dawkins said, “There are no Christians, as far as I know, blowing up buildings,” Dawkins said. “I am not aware of any Christian suicide bombers. I am not aware of any major Christian denomination that believes the penalty for apostasy is death.”



“I have mixed feelings about the decline of Christianity, in so far as Christianity might be a bulwark against something worse.”

<http://www.breitbart.com/national-security/2016/01/12/professional-atheist-dawkins-says-christianity-bulwark-against-something-worse/>

Tearing Down The Wall of Atheism

“When the enemies of Christianity say something about you as a Christian that your Christian friends would also agree is true, isn’t it time at least for some to reconsider their antagonistic position against Christianity, especially in light of all the scientific evidence today for an intelligent designer as well as near universal agreement that some people’s actions are morally reprehensible!”

Dr. David Geisler

2. Find Common Ground

- Build conversations with others based on common interest, hobbies, or some kind of connection.
- **Look for opportunities to talk about topics (politics, news events, and etc.) that have a moral or ethical theme.**



2. Find Common Ground

- Build conversations with others based on common interest, hobbies, or some kind of connection.
- Look for opportunities to talk about topics (politics, news events, and etc.) that have a moral or ethical theme.
- **Search for spiritual common ground with low-key spiritual questions.**



Find Spiritual Common Ground

- *What makes you happy in life?*
- *What gets you up every morning other than going to school or getting a pay check?*
- *Does it matter what you believe?*
- *Can everyone be right?*
- *Is it enough that we just have faith in something?*
- *Is there any difference between Jesus and other religious leaders?*



Find Spiritual Common Ground



Notice that Paul's approach was different in these two passages. Why?



2. Find Common Ground

- Build conversations with others based on common interest, hobbies, or some kind of connection.
- Look for opportunities to talk about topics (politics, news events, and etc.) that have a moral or ethical theme.
- Search for spiritual common ground with low-key spiritual questions.
- **Look for common agreement even if you mostly disagree with them! (Acts 17:22).**



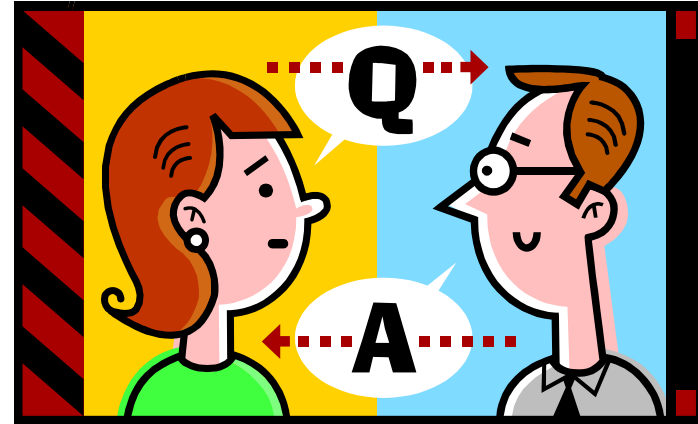
Building a Bridge to the Gospel (Jn. 8:32)

“So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said:
“**Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.**”²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.”²⁴

Acts 17:22-24



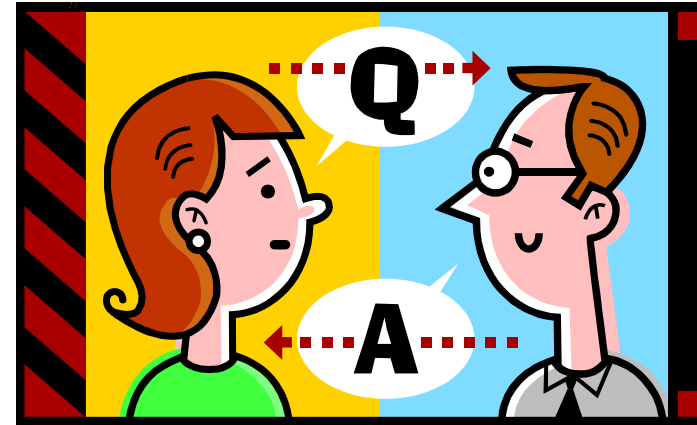
I believe that all religions
are true!



I would certainly agree
with you...that there are
some things that **most**
religions hold in
common...like being
loving or kind to one
another.



I believe that all religions
are true!



But it is not in our similarities
where we are distinct, it is in
some of our key differences.

For example, do you know
that the major religious faiths
have different views of
salvation.

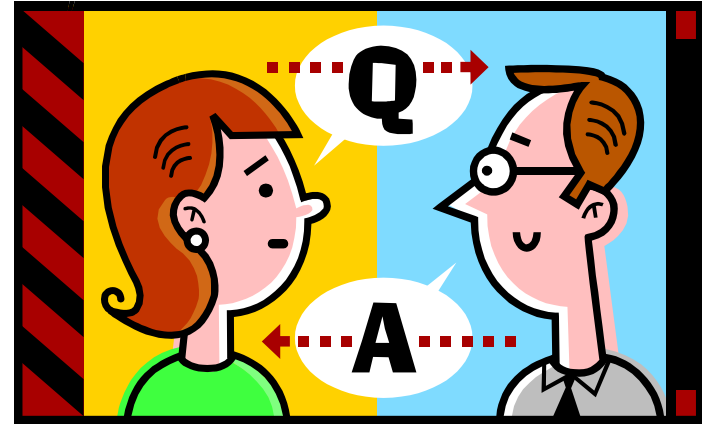


Answers About Jesus That Help The Pluralist

- **Christianity**— by faith alone in Christ alone
- **Islam**— by belief in Allah, his prophet Muhammad, and good works
- **Hinduism**— by overcoming karma an incarnations with good works
- **Buddhism**— by cessation of desire through eight-fold path



I believe that all religions
are true!



For example, do you know that there are major differences between Christianity and all the other religions in the world?



Finding Common Ground in Action in Singapore

“I went into this taxi where the driver was playing some Buddhist mantras over his sound system. He asked me politely if I minded and offered to turn it off if I did. Actually I did mind, but I decided to use the opportunity to ask him what he was playing. He told (me) what it was and asked if he could explain it to me. He also asked which religion I belonged to which I answered Christianity. I agreed to hear his side of the caveat that he was open enough to hear my side at the end of his



Finding Common Ground in Action in Singapore

... He then began an exposition on his Buddhist faith that he enjoyed immensely, talking about how he tries to be as good a person as possible. At the same time, he boasted how he was open to other faiths as well. So I asked him if I could share why I felt Christianity was different ... By the time we reached my destination, I had taken the opportunity to invite him to my church (likewise, he had invited me to attend some of his Buddhist meetings).”

Former student at East Asia School of Theology



Finding Common Ground in Action in Singapore

“I realized what made him open up to me initially was the fact that I was open to him to start with. Though he did not say it explicitly, **I had to ‘hear’ his desire to continue listening to his mantras, following which I bothered to ‘hear’ about his faith. By allowing him that, the common ground of understanding was laid and he was open to listen to my view.”**

Former student at East Asia School of Theology



Building a Bridge to the Gospel (Jn. 8:32)

1. Find the Right Balance in your approach.
2. Find Common Ground with those you are trying to reach.
3. **Build a bridge from point of shared beliefs (even those they are not quite aware of).**



Building a Bridge to the Gospel (Jn. 8:32)

1. Find the Right Balance in your approach.
2. Find Common Ground with those you are trying to reach.

3. Build a bridge from point of shared beliefs (even those they are not quite aware of).

These can be head bridges and or heart bridges.



A. HEART BRIDGES

- **Non-believers value humility.**
- **Non-believers desire to be loved and accepted.**
- **We can show how Jesus fulfills the inner longing of our hearts, calms our fears and realizes our hopes.**



Building Heart Bridges (*example*)

**“When someone says ‘I think Christians are arrogant for claiming that Jesus is the only way,’ ask yourself what in these values, beliefs, hopes, etc., you can agree with them on?
(Common Ground)**

M&T Trainer, **Rev. Dave Montoya**, *Dealing With Both Minds and Hearts: Answering the Questions Behind the Questions*, located on Meekness web-site
<http://meeknessandtruth.org/tools.htm>



Building Heart Bridges (*example*)

The most obvious area of common ground is in the value placed on **humility**. Their distaste for arrogance and affinity for humility is as much a left-over from the Christian influence on Western culture as it is God's Law written in their hearts. But it is a significant area of common ground and should be recognized as such... We have to admit that Christians are sometimes arrogant and that that is not right. We have huge **common ground** over their desire to be **loved** and accepted and that others be loved and **accepted**. After all, that is the heart of the Christian message, that God “so loved the world...”

M&T Trainer, **Rev. Dave Montoya**, *Dealing With Both Minds and Hearts: Answering the Questions Behind the Questions*, located on Meekness web-site <http://meeknessandtruth.org/tools.htm>



Head Bridges

Comparing Jesus, Muhammad, and Buddha

1. Jesus was without sin.
 - Even the Koran states that Jesus was without sin.
(See Sura 3:45-46;19:19-21)
2. Mohammed was told to ask for forgiveness.
(Sura 40:55;48:1-2)
3. Buddha was imperfect.
 - He was understood as having many rebirths thus indicating an imperfect life.
 - At best, Buddha pointed to the way and followed a path to purity. He did not possess it fully himself.



Head Bridges

Not Virgin Born

Sinful (*Sura 40:55;48:1-2*)

No Miracles except
Qur'an (*Sura 17:90-93*)

Advance by the Sword
(*Sura 29,2,36,73,111,123*)

Died and was buried

Virgin born (*Sura 3:47*)

Sinless (*Sura 3:45-6;19:19-21*)

Did many miracles

Blessed are the
peacemakers (*Mt 5:9*)
Forgave His enemies

Rose and His tomb is
empty (Muslims reject)



Build Your Bridge Using Planks of Common Understanding

WWW.MEEKNESSANDTRUTH.ORG



Conversational EVANGELISM

Building Head and Heart Bridges!



**Six reasons why
it matters what
you believe!**

Building Bridges
with those you are
trying to reach!
(1 Cor. 9:22)



It Matters What You Believe

1. **What you believe will affect how you live!**



It Matters What You Believe

1. What you believe will affect how you live!
- 2. Not all religious viewpoints can be right!**

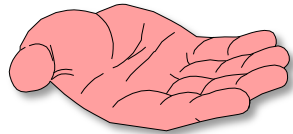
Can Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad all be right?



Can all religions simultaneously be true?

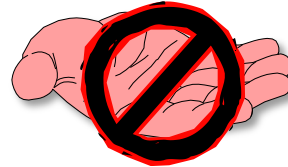


Can They All Be Right?



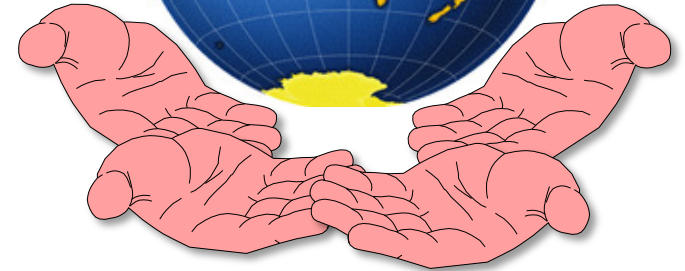
Christianity
Judaism
Islam

One God



Atheism,
Theravada
Buddhism

No God



Polytheism,
Mahayana
Buddhism

Many gods



Objection!

“But God can become whatever he wants to be!”

Reply:

Can God as creator be **separate** from the Universe at the same time He is **identical** to the Universe?

No, He can not.



It Matters What You Believe

1. What you believe will affect how you live!
2. Not all religious viewpoints can be right!
- 3. Faith must have an object to have merit!**

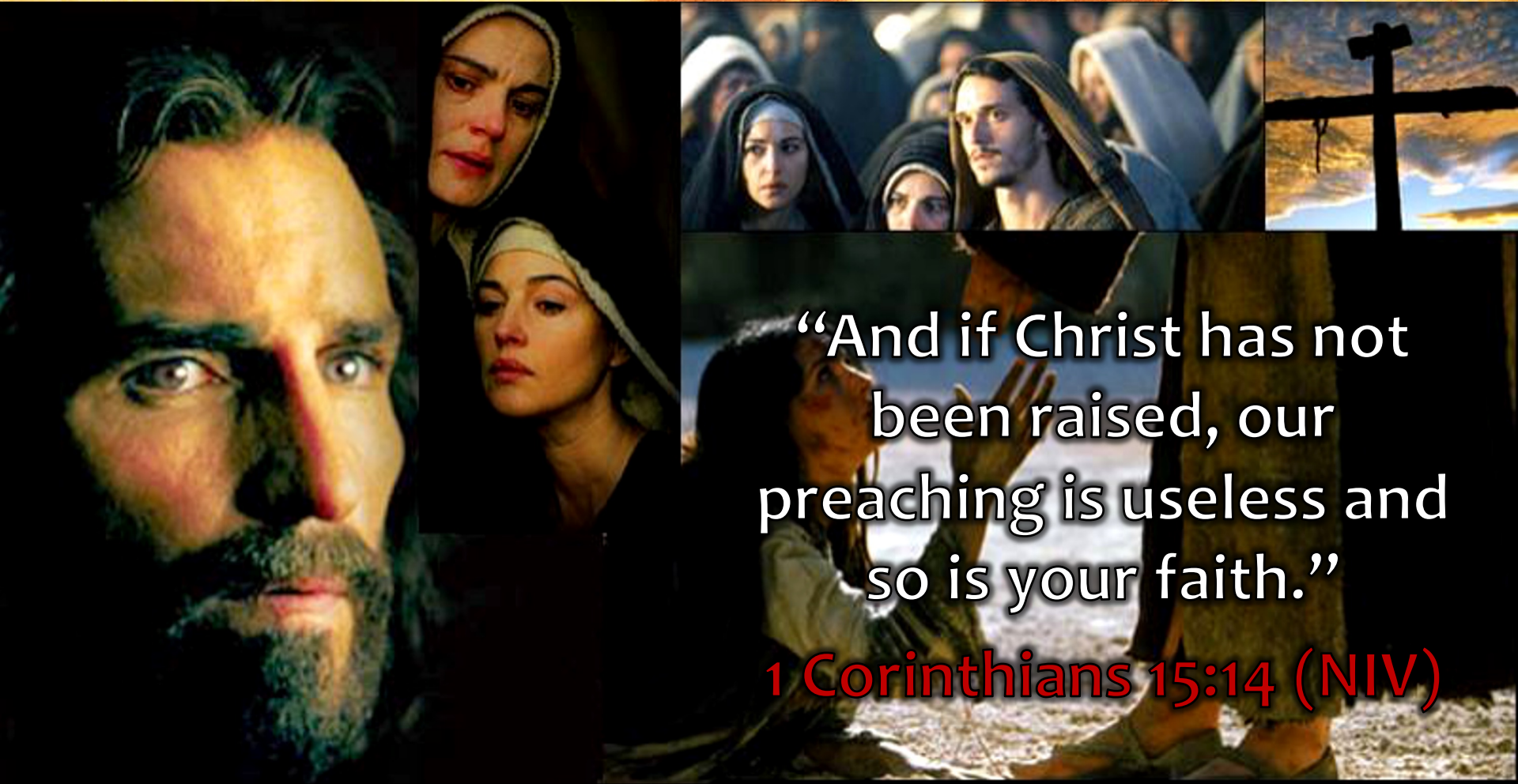


“About one out of four (26%) born-again Christians believe that it doesn’t matter what faith you follow because they all teach the same lessons.”

*Born Again Christians, 2000,
George Barna, Barna web-site*



Christianity is Based on a Historical Event



“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV)

** Biblical faith must have an object to be valid.*



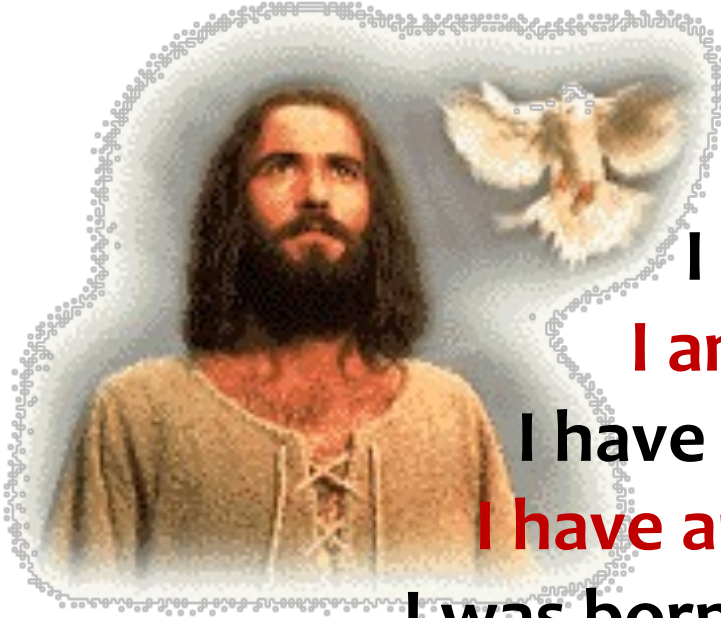
It Matters What You Believe

1. What you believe will affect how you live!
2. Not all religious viewpoints can be right!
3. Faith must have an object to have merit!
- 4. Not all religious leaders made equal claims!**



The Unique Claims of Jesus

Which religious leader ever made these claims?



I am without sin (John 8:46)

I have always existed (John 8:58)

I am the only Son of God (John 3:16)

I am the light of the world (John 8:12)

I have come to save the world (John 3:17)

I have authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:10)

I was born to testify to the truth (John 18:37)

You trust in God; Trust also in me (John 14:1)

I am the Truth and only way to God (John 14:6)

I will come again to judge the world (Matt 25:31-46)

Take from “The Top Twenty-three Presentations” By Norm Geisler and Frank Turek



It Matters What You Believe

1. What you believe will affect how you live!
2. Not all religious viewpoints can be right!
3. Faith must have an object to have merit!
4. Not all religious leaders made equal claims!
- 5. The proof of Christ's claims have no parallel among major religious leaders!**



No Comparison!

Comparing Christianity and other Religions is not like comparing apples with apples!



Christianity



Other Religions



The Proof of Christ's Claims (Cont.)

“Buddha claimed to point to the way, Mohammed claimed to be a prophet of God, but Jesus Christ is the only major religious leader that ever claimed to be God, who fulfilled prophecy, lived a sinless life, and then died on the cross and rose from the dead.”

Dr. David Geisler



It Matters What You Believe

1. What you believe will affect how you live!
2. Not all religious viewpoints can be right!
3. Faith must have an object to have merit!
4. Not all religious leaders made equal claims!
5. The proof of Christ's claims have no parallel among major religious leaders!
- 6. Without God, some people find it difficult to find meaning in life!**



Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)



“God is dead. God remains dead.
And we have killed him.
How shall we, the murderers of
all murderers, comfort ourselves?”

The Gay Science, 125



Fyodor Dostoevshi (1821-1881)



**If God is dead,
anything is
permissible!**

*The Brothers
Karamazov*



The Death of God Leads to the Death of Man



12 million
murdered



18 million
murdered



It Matters What You Believe

1. What you believe will affect how you live!
2. Not all religious viewpoints can be right!
3. Faith must have an object to have merit!
4. Not all religious leaders made equal claims!
5. The proof of Christ's claims have no parallel among major religious leaders!
6. Without God, some people find it difficult to find meaning in life!



Building a Bridge to the Gospel (Jn. 8:32)

1. Find the Right Balance in your approach.
2. Find Common Ground with those you are trying to reach.
3. Build a bridge from point of shared beliefs (even those they are not quite aware of).
- 4. Memorize a basic outline for defending the Christian faith to guide you in your discussions with others.**



12 Steps in Establishing the Case for Christianity

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

See *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* by **Dr. Norman Geisler** for more details, which can be ordered at: www.normgeisler.com



The Importance of Memorizing Logical Progression of Points

“The main difficulty I had in applying the conversational approach in the three encounters was in effectively linking one question or argument to the next, to lead the person to a clear conclusion. I often felt somewhat muddled in the conversation.

I realize I need to focus on understanding and remembering a logical progression of points so that I can help someone to see and understand for himself.”

Former student at East Asia School of Theology



Building a Bridge to the Gospel (Jn. 8:32)

1. Find the Right Balance in your approach.
2. Find Common Ground with those you are trying to reach.
3. Build a bridge from point of shared beliefs (even those they are not quite aware of).
4. Memorize a basic outline for defending the Christian faith to guide you in your discussions with others.
5. **Remember the goal.**



5. Remember the Goal!

Don't get so caught up in removing barriers that you forget to remember the goal!



Remember the Goal in Using Apologetics in Evangelism!

To remove the obstacles
so that we can help people
take one step closer
to Jesus Christ each day.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:6



Building a Bridge to the Gospel (Jn. 8:32)

1. Find the Right Balance in your approach.
2. Find Common Ground with those you are trying to reach.
3. Build a bridge from point of shared beliefs (even those they are not quite aware of).
4. Memorize a basic outline for defending the Christian faith to guide you in your discussions with others.
5. Remember the goal.
6. **Actively seek for opportunities to transition to spiritual things.**



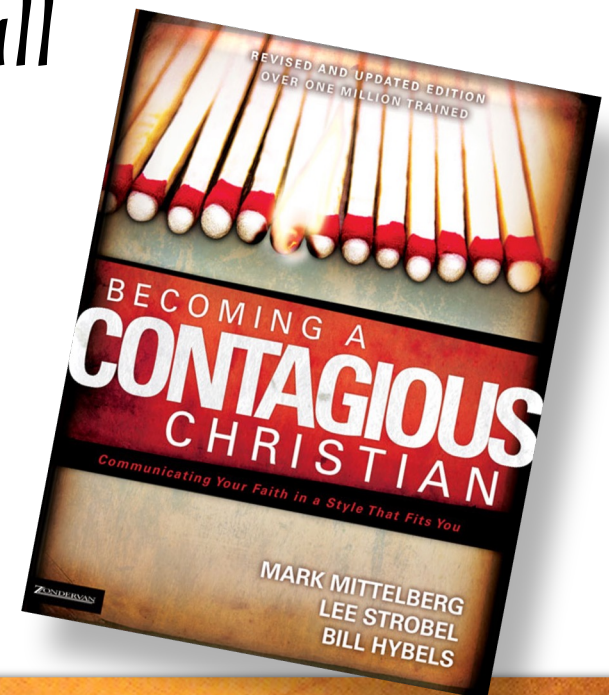
6. Actively Seek for Opportunities ...

Example:

“Has anyone ever explained to you the difference between Christianity and all other religions?”

*** Explain Do versus Done**

(See **Bill Hybels**, *Contagious Christian Training*)



Do vs. Done

For example:

Muslims teach that man's good works have to outweigh his bad works. **(Do)**

Hindus teach that if one does enough good he can pay off his karmic debt and escape the cycle of reincarnation. **(Do)**

Buddhists teach that salvation comes about when one desires to stop desiring. **(Do)**

Jesus says accept the gift I offer. It has already been **“Done”** for you (you can do nothing to earn God's gift) Invite me to come into your life and change you from the inside out (Jn. 1:12; Phil. 2:13).



Building a Bridge to the Gospel (Jn. 8:32)

1. Find the Right Balance in your approach.
2. Find Common Ground with those you are trying to reach.
3. Build a bridge from point of shared beliefs (even those they are not quite aware of).
4. Memorize a basic outline for defending the Christian faith to guide you in your discussions with others.
5. Remember the goal.
6. Actively seek for opportunities to transition to spiritual things.



Invite Them to Take a Step of Faith

“Accepting Jesus is like drinking a cup of tea, you will never know how it really taste by hearing what others say unless you drink it for yourself.”



Former student at East Asia School of Theology



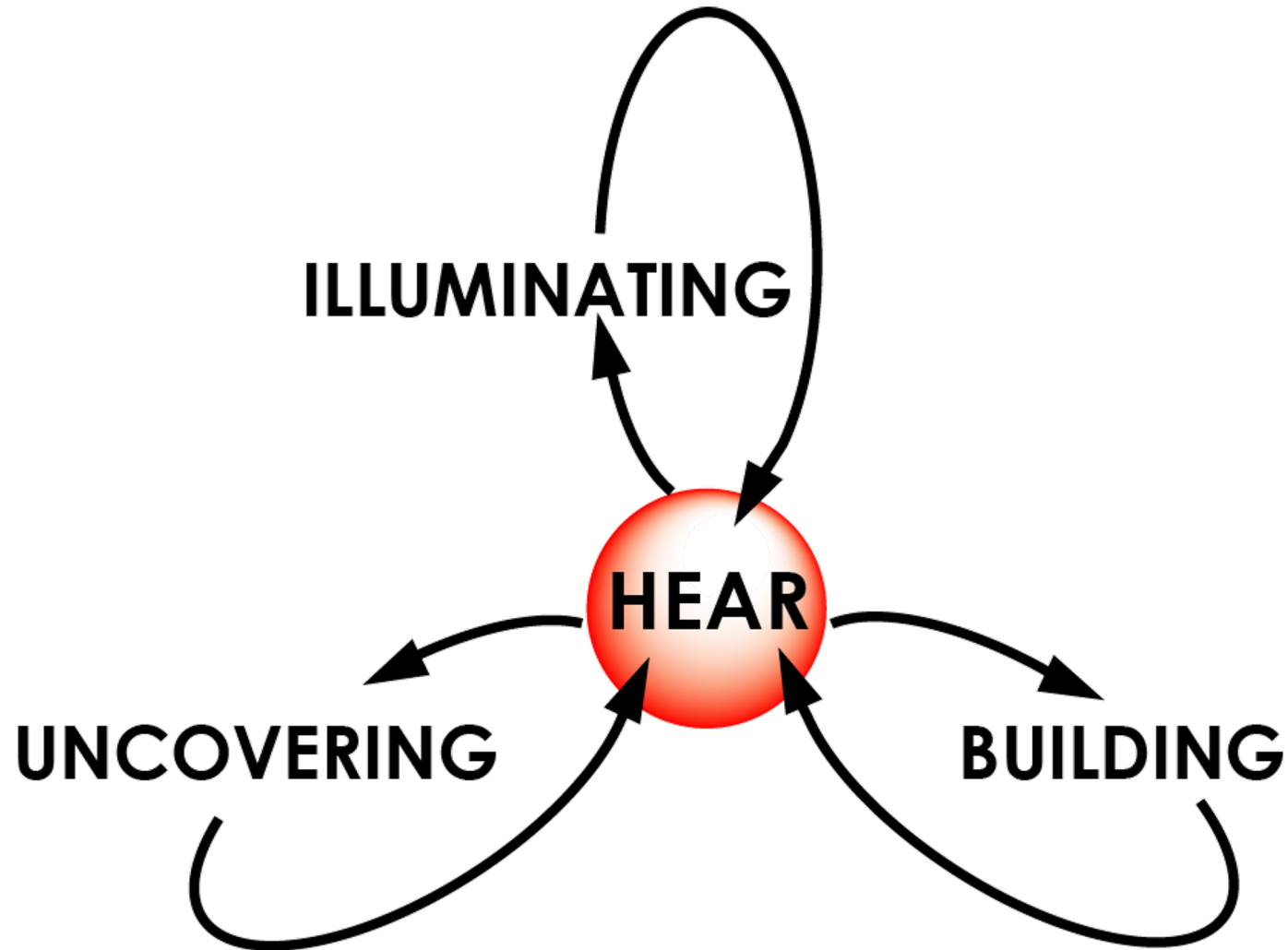
But what if they don't care?

Answer:

“If life is just a drop in the bucket compared to eternity, wouldn't that be worth checking out?”



4 Types of Conversations We Want to Have with Non-believers



4 Types of Roles You Need to Play in Your Friend's Life



Musician



Artist



Archeologist



Builder



The Conversational Evangelism Model (In a nutshell)



We want to listen to them and then **“hear”** their discrepancies and then **illuminate** them by asking **questions** that will **“clarify”** their religious terminology and “expose” the weaknesses of their perspective.

Then we want to **uncover the real barriers and “build” a bridge** to help them take one step closer to Jesus Christ each day (1 Cor. 3:6).



A Biblical Perspective

The Apostle Paul said,
“I have become all things to all men so
that by all means,
I may save some.”

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22



Build A Bridges With a Taxi Cab Driver

Introductory question

Me: How long have you been driving a Taxi?

Him: About one and a half years.

Me: My wife's uncle used to drive a taxi. It seems like it is harder and harder to make money these days being a taxi cab driver when petro prices keep rising.

(This statement was to get him talking which he enjoyed doing and sharing his frustration)



Build A Bridges With a Taxi Cab Driver

Me: *(After he seemed more open to talking I asked)*

Do you have any kind of religious belief?

Him: I am a Buddhist

Me: Are you a devote Buddhist?

Him: *(no real response) – meaning he probably was Buddhist in name only*

Me: Do you know the difference between Christianity and all the other religions in the world?

Pause wait for him to respond....

Him: No, I won't mind if you told me.

Me: I can explain the difference between Christianity and all the other religions in the world using two words "Do verses Done."



Build A Bridges With a Taxi Cab Driver

All the religious in the world basically say “do this.” For example, Muslims belief that their good works have to outweigh their bad works; Buddhist believe that one must get rid of desire; Hindu’s believe they must do good things to be released from the Karmic cycle and reach Nirvana. All these religions basically say you have to do something.

Christianity on the other hand says, there is nothing you can do, it has already be done. All you need to do is to accept the gift that God has provided in sending Jesus to die for us in our place and invite Jesus to come into our lives and to change us from the inside out.



Build A Bridges With a Taxi Cab Driver

Me: Have you ever heard anything like this?

Him: Sort of, my brother in law is a Christian.

Me: So when he became a Christian did you see any changes in his life after that?

Him: Yes... *(I can't remember what else he said here)*

Me: Another way to explain the difference between Jesus and all the other religious leaders is to say it this way.

“Buddha claimed to point to the way, Mohammed claimed to be a prophet of God, but Jesus Christ is the only major religious leader who ever claimed to be God, who lived a sinless life, who fulfilled prophecy written hundreds of years before he ever existed, who died on the cross, and rose from the dead and did a bunch of miracles to prove it.”



Build A Bridges With a Taxi Cab Driver

Him: *Pause ...* Why are there so many different religious beliefs?

Me: It is partly because people see God in different ways. Some see there is one God, some see there is many gods, and some see (as in some form of Buddhism) there is no god.

But do you see that they all can not be right? God can not be one, many and none all at the same time.

Him: *Pause ...* I believe in one God

Me: Christians believe that no matter how much good we do, we can never do enough good. That is why Christians believe that God send Jesus to die on the cross to take the penalty of our sins.

Have you ever heard anything like this before?



Build A Bridges With a Taxi Cab Driver

Him: Not so clearly

Me: But it is not just that we believe that Jesus is the Messiah, who died for our sins to take the penalty for what we deserve, that makes us a Christian. Each person must individually decide to accept Christ to come into their lives, forgive us or our sins, and change us from the inside out.

For example when I talk to people about Jesus I tell them that there are two decisions one must make about Jesus Christ.

First you have to decide is there good evidence to believe that Jesus is who he said he is.



Build A Bridges With a Taxi Cab Driver

Then once you have decided that you have to make the most important decision, do I want to put my faith and trust in Christ? And the second decision is much more difficult than the first decision because you have to decide whether you want to submit your will to another person.

Me: So I can give you good evidence to show that Jesus really was who he says he was but you personally have to decide to put your faith and trust “in Him.” For example, when I married my wife Charlene, I believed that she would make a good wife based on the evidence. But that evidence as to why I believed she would make a great wife never forced me to say I do to her. That was a decision of my will, right?



Build A Bridges With a Taxi Cab Driver

In the same way you may be convinced that Jesus really is who he said he was but still you must decide whether you want to “believe in” Him before you can become a Christians.

Does that make sense?

Him: Yes.

Me: Have you ever heard it explained in that way?

Him: No.

Me: *(I could see the Spirit was convicting him but he was not ready to make a decision for Christ).*

Have you ever been to church?

Him: *(I can't remember for sure but I think he said he's attend before)*



Build A Bridges With a Taxi Cab Driver

Me: If you are interested to learn more I can meet you sometime and we can go together to my church.

Him: Yes maybe sometime I can do that.

Me: Here is my card, give me a call sometime and we can go together.

To me this is the most important decision anyone can make in life, who is Jesus Christ.



Application Exercise

1. Listen more carefully in my conversation with others.
2. Identify the “sour notes” I hear in conversations with others.
3. Look for opportunities to ask clarifying questions in my witness to others. *Ask, what do you mean by...?*
(*Example: Free Thinker*)
4. Attempt the process of building a bridge with a not-yet-believer by asking probing questions to reach areas of common understanding and agreement.
5. Actively seek for opportunities to transition to spiritual things. (*example: Do verses Done*)
6. Discuss the results of this exercise with another Christian.





BUILDING

Dr. David Geisler

Conversational

EVANGELISM