

Tools for Reaching Your Circle of Influence:



12 Points that Show Christianity is True
Conversational Evangelism
Worldview Replacement

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 The 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
Cyclical Change
Irreducible Complexity
Nonviability of Transitional Lifeforms
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 was 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
Theological dimension
Moral Dimension
Doctrinal Dimension
Teleological 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 the theistic God.

A theistic God is an 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, the 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 More Accu- rately Copied Widely Quoted Widely Translated Widely Distributed	Eyewitness First century commentaries exist. Even critics date 1 Corinthians very early	Embarrassing Disciples are rebuked, and portrayed as cowards. The truth is the only moti- vation to retain these	Excruciating The culture shock of moving from Moses to Christ. The difficult sayings of Jesus	Expected The Old Testament predicts Jesus' birth place, death, resurrection, activities, and life story.	Extra-Biblical Historians confirm the Bible and no archaeology 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 to be 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 4:25-26 — Jesus is Messiah-God
 John 5:22-23 — Jesus is worthy of honor due to God.
 Jn 20:28-29 — Jesus accepted 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 John 1:1 Hebrews 1:3
 Mark 1:1 Romans 9:5
 Luke 1:35 2 Peter 1:1

#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

#9: Therefore Jesus is God

#10: Since Jesus is God, whatever He Teaches is True

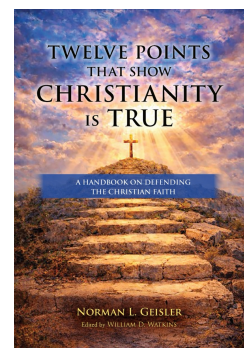
#11: Jesus Taught the Bible is the Word of God

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.

#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 only Jesus can provide?
 - What are the "sour notes" that I hear?
 - What are the inconsistencies in their belief system?



Kinds of Sour Notes With Examples

Belief vs. Heart Longing -- Believing one thing but wanting something else. *An atheist who can't live without nonmaterial things like truth and love.*

Belief vs. Behavior -- Believing one thing but acting contrary to that belief. *A Muslim who believes good deeds get him to heaven but does not pray five times a day.*

Belief vs. Belief -- Believing one thing but also believing the opposite. *An atheist who believes there is ultimate meaning and purpose in life, but also that she is an accidental byproduct of nature.*

Illogical Belief -- Believing something that is self-contradictory. *A Buddhist believes in achieving nirvana by letting go of desires, but that requires desiring no desires!*

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

Ask them questions like:

- What do you mean when you say...?
- How is it possible...?

Ask yourself:

- What is one key question that could surface doubt about their current beliefs?
- Am I asking the question in a way that will make it difficult for them to get defensive right away?
- Am I ending the spiritual dialogue in a way that they might be willing to continue the conversation later or even desire to hear more what of I'm saying about Jesus?
- What is one key thing I can focus on that could unlock openness to 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?

Identifying 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.

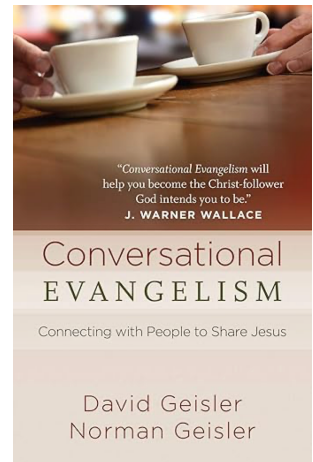
Heart Bridge (Subjective)

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.



Check out the NGIM evangelism app for free aids in evangelism and apologetics by scanning the QR code below or visiting: ngim.org/app



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

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 thier 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.

Three Major Religious World Views



Theism
God Made All



Pantheism
God Is All



Atheism
No God At All

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 Truth of Christianity

The Existence & Attributes of God

The Philosophical Foundation

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.

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."

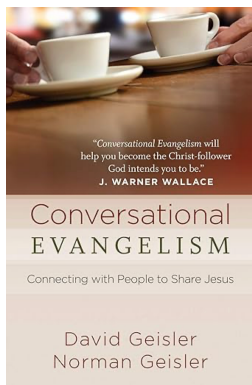
- Nick Pollard, *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*, pg. 50



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?

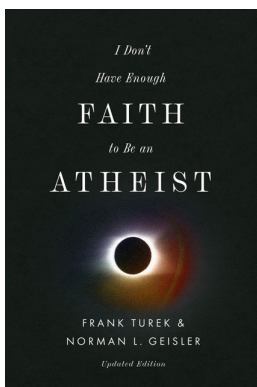
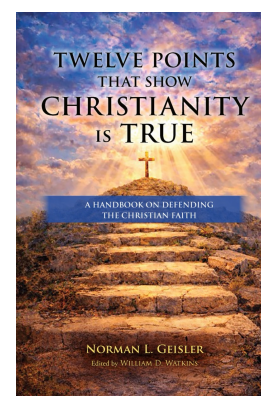
Looking to Go Deeper? Check out these great Resources!



Witnessing used to involve laying out the truth and guiding a person to understand and accept it. But the awareness of basic Christian principles has changed and so have the needs of pre-believers. With a passion for people, authors David and Norman Geisler share an engaging, conversational approach to evangelism as they address:

- What makes old models of witnessing ineffective in today's culture
- Why evangelism must start with relational pre-evangelism
- How to ask questions, listen attentively, and understand what someone believes
- Ways to identify the real barriers to belief in order to build a bridge to truth
- How to keep dialogue going with different personality types

This updated apologetics book is Dr. Norman Geisler's signature work. It represents the backbone of his classical apologetic model, which integrates apologetics, philosophy, and theology. This logical framework provides a step-by-step outline for understanding, defending, and sharing the faith.



To some, the concept of having faith in a higher power or a set of religious beliefs is nonsensical. Indeed, many view religion in general, and Christianity in particular, as unfounded and unreasonable. Norman Geisler and Frank Turek argue, however, that Christianity is not only more reasonable than all other belief systems, but is indeed more rational than unbelief itself.

For free resources to help you in evangelism and apologetics, check out our FREE APP at:

<https://ngim.org/app/>



Adapted From:

Geisler, N. *Twelve Points that Show Christianity Is True: A Handbook On Defending the Christian Faith*.

Geisler, D. & Geisler, N. *Conversational Evangelism*.

Turek, F. & Geisler, N. *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*.

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