

Answering Questions

Part 1

Last week we spoke about approaching people and starting a conversation with them. This week, we will focus more on answering people's questions. But before we talk about how to answer people's questions, I want to spend a few moments talking about how to continue a conversation after you start one.

Continuing the Conversation.

You might be very excited to start talking to someone and might know the right approach and the right questions to ask but what happens next? This of course, depends on their reaction and answer to your questions. Lets say for example that you ask a person if they will go to heaven after they die. This individual will say no, and suddenly the person begins to cry. Or in a different situation you ask a person if they will go to heaven after they die and say no. You ask, "does this concern you?", in which they reply "absolutely not". To keep the conversation going will be very different in both situations. **If the person is open and willing to accept the truth, your duty is to tell him/her the gospel and teach him/her about Jesus. If the person is closed to the truth (or not willing to repent and trust Jesus), usually it will be a good idea to ask more questions to find out why they are this way.** For instance, if a person says, "I don't believe in God". You may want to ask, "why don't you believe in God?", or another good question is "have you always not believed in God?". You see this way you can learn more about the person and what is in their heart. Then when you feel it is right, you can give them the gospel message, which we will talk more about in upcoming lesson. **So try to find out more about this person, specifically their beliefs, before teaching them or directing them to something.** Maybe someone will tell you they are a Christian but they have no idea what it means to be a Christian. How would you know that if you don't ask questions? So when people tell me they are a Christian I usually ask, "what church do you go to?" or "Do you believe you have been born-again?".

Advice

Before we look at some questions that non-Christians might ask us, I want to give a few points of advice about answering questions.

1. Pray before and during the conversation. Its really important to ask God for wisdom so that He may help us during a conversation. Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your understanding". Trusting in God is so important in this area. If we rely on our knowledge and wisdom we will fail but when we **continually**

ask God to guide us and help us, we will often times be surprised what we will say because its not us talking, but God!

2. Be honest. When you don't know the answer to a question, don't make one up on the go. Tell the person that you will study this question and will get back to them. I have done this before especially if it's a question about a scientific study/finding that I was not aware of. Also don't feel like you have to know/answer every single question. Sometimes if a person is asking too many questions, I will ask them if I can just share the gospel and focus on Christ. This way the purpose of the conversation doesn't get lost in secondary things.
3. Write down and study questions. Answering questions takes practice. You will hear questions repeated over and over again. Study them and be prepared to answer. In Peter 3:15 it says "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." Studying the question and looking into the Bible for the answers will help you be equipped for the next time you are asked this question. Also one more point. This verse mentions to answer with respect and gentleness. If someone is not being polite with you or asking a question that can be insulting, remember that we are called to answer with respect and gentleness. People will observe you very closely when you witness to them, and they will watch your reaction when you answer.
4. Question have different purposes. Many times when we go witnessing, especially in the streets, we will encounter people who ask doctrinal questions. They ask questions about God, the Bible, Jesus, and other Biblical topics. However, not all questions are doctrinal. Some questions are more personal by nature and people might ask for advice or help. Sometimes people ask you a question just to try to disprove you or debate you. Be aware of what kinds of questions people ask.