

## **Christians Confronting Cultural Issues**

### **Session 2 & 3: Politically Correct, Biblically Corrupt**

- Christianity and the world population are both growing at 2.3%. Islam is increasing at 2.9%.
- Worldwide 4.8 billion people are adherents to Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, or Islam.
- Globally, nonbelievers rank fourth behind Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism.

#### **Acts 17:16-21**

#### **Witnessing Tip-Build Bridges**

Through your words and actions, build bridges of understanding and witness with unbelievers. Relationships can be established through listening, acts of kindness, encouragement, recreation, and sacrificial service. Perhaps the person has needs that can be met through more formal ministries such as literacy or crisis pregnancy.

Communicate unconditional love, but always move toward a time when you present the good news of Jesus Christ. In addition, never compromise your faith in order to preserve a friendship.

#### **Witnessing Tip-Ask Questions**

In a culture of opinion, where everyone has an agenda and a cause, people are anxious to discuss their beliefs. Indeed, they long for the chance, and your own curiosity opens the door. Ask them what they believe. Ask them what holidays they observe, what their bumper stickers mean, and what their interests are. You would be amazed how many people are eager to have an audience! Later you can move to questions such as “Who is Jesus to you?” “What do you expect your faith to do for you?” and “What do you think causes evil and suffering in the world?” Ask questions, listen to the answers, and look for opportunities to present Christ.

#### **Unanswered Questions of Science**

##### **Questions Science**

Questions Science Tries to Answer

The origin of life

How we got here

The Big Bang theory of explosion

How we can use scientific and medical procedures

##### **Questions Science ignores**

The meaning of life

Why we are here

Who started the Big Bang

Why we coexist through human history

Whether we should use all scientific and medical procedures

### **Witnessing Tip-Prepare a Reasonable Defense**

Skeptics claim to place reason above faith. To witness to a skeptic take a thoughtful and reasoned approach. Start by listening to his ideas. You may discover that he doesn't know exactly what he believes. Show that you care about him and accept him even though you do not agree with his beliefs. Present logical arguments for your belief in God, Jesus, and biblical truth. Discuss why you believe Christianity is a credible belief system, providing biblical support and refuting the presuppositions of atheism. Such an approach will require advance preparation on your part.

### **The Christian Worldview**

Although a variety of definitions exist, one way worldview can be defined is *a belief system that gives meaning a sense of community, knowledge, legacy, and a basis for ethical living*. This is the worldview definition that guides this study.

1. The existence of a personal, ethical, self-revealing, all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere-present God.
2. The creation of the world by God, including His holy and wise government of it for moral ends.
3. The spiritual nature and dignity of humans as created in God's image.
4. The fall of humanity into sin and its resultant depravity.
5. The historical self-revelation of God to the patriarchs and in the line of Israel.
6. The incarnation of Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God, as God manifest in flesh.
7. The redemption of the world through the atoning death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
8. The foundation of the kingdom of God on earth, which includes the spiritual salvation of individuals and a new order of society.
9. The belief that history has a goal, including resurrection, judgment, and separation of the righteous to eternity with God and the wicked to eternal suffering excluded from His presence.

### **Political Correctness**

The phrase *political correctness* can be found as far back as a 1793 U.S. Supreme Court decision, but did not take on its current significance until late in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

An online encyclopedia describes political correctness as “the attempted erection of boundaries or limits to language, the range of acceptable public debate, and conduct.” In its most common usage, it describes the altering of language or terminology for the purpose of eliminating offensive or objectionable words or stereotypes, frequently in regard to an individual or group's race, gender, disability, or another characteristic.

Efforts to be politically correct frequently emphasize being inoffensive at the expense of honesty or truth. The idea of aborting a baby creates mental pain, so the colder harsher, less-cuddly term *fetus* is used. A homosexual takes offense at being told his chosen lifestyle is sinful; political correctness refers to his sexual orientation, implying a condition beyond his control.

Society also applies political correctness to religion. So as not to offend individuals from various religious backgrounds, political correctness says we must accept all religions and all beliefs as equally valid and worthy. When the Christian community speaks of Jesus as the only way to God or of the need for all to come to salvation through Christ, political correctness attempts to step in and rule the message out of order.

### **Witnessing Tip-Assert Absolute Truth**

Prayer is extremely important in seeking to influence a spiritualist. With love and assurance, demonstrate that the spiritualist perspective is self-contradictory. The assertion that there is no absolute truth is itself a statement of absolute truth. Confidently assert that truth has an objective basis. Point to the historical facts about Christ's life, death and resurrection, which confirm His identity as the way, the truth, and the life.

### **Review: Politically Correct, Biblically Corrupt**

When Paul preached at the Areopagus, the Supreme Court of Athens, he presented

\_\_\_\_\_.

All systems deal with these eternal questions:

- How do I find \_\_\_\_\_?
- How do I find \_\_\_\_\_?
- How do I find \_\_\_\_\_?
- How do I find \_\_\_\_\_?
- How do I live beyond \_\_\_\_\_?
- Is this life the \_\_\_\_\_?

This study is about presenting \_\_\_\_\_ in a variety of ways, to a variety of people who need \_\_\_\_\_ just as much as you did.

### **A Not-So-Brave New World**

In a politically correct culture, the only heresy is to believe in \_\_\_\_\_.

They don't want to reject Jesus or mock Him; they want to \_\_\_\_\_ Him. All four major systems and this culture have found a way to approach Jesus by \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

In this new politically world, if you take a stand for anything, you \_\_\_\_\_ something. Their one absolute is there are no \_\_\_\_\_.

If Jesus is the way, everything else is \_\_\_\_\_.

It's not that we're \_\_\_\_\_ anyone; we're trying to \_\_\_\_\_ everyone to Him as Lord.