

Roadblocks in Personal Evangelism

As believers we have the Divine mandate to go and spread the Gospel to every creature (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8). What should be our response when we meet opposition as we go about the task of evangelism? First Peter 3:15 commands us to *“be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”* The following study is an attempt (though not exhaustive) to respond to some of the questions and statements that a soul winner will come in contact with from time to time while working in the Master’s harvest.

1. **“I don’t think God would send people to Hell.”**

- a. This statement reveals a misunderstanding of God’s _____.
 - God is love (I John 4:8)
 - God is holy (Joshua 24:19 *“...for he is an holy God”*)
 - God is just (Isaiah 45:21 *“...and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour”*)
- b. God always and only acts in a way perfectly in keeping with His character (i.e. He will not be loving at the expense of His holiness or perfect justice.)
- c. **ANSWER:** “The idea that God is too loving to send anyone to Hell is based on love as man defines it. God is perfect and will always act in accordance with all of His attributes with perfect _____. It is true that God loves you, that is why He sent His only Son to Earth to die in your place and provide a way to escape His wrath. But at the same time, while God loves us, He is also holy and will not allow sin in His presence. That is why you and I need Christ.”

2. **“What gives you the right to say that you are right and everyone else is wrong?”**

- a. Sometimes this is phrased as, “I believe there are lots of ways to God.”
- b. This person is assuming that there are many “truths” and all are equally right. This is simply not the case.
- c. Truth is _____ and _____.

d. **ANSWER:** “There are many different views claiming to be “truth.” Many of those views of God have claimed to be “the only way.” If the Muslims are right that Allah is the way to Heaven, then the Buddhists cannot also be correct in believing that Nirvana is the way to ultimate peace. Jesus Christ says *“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* (John 14:6) In His first coming Jesus Christ fulfilled hundreds of prophecies given in the Old Testament (virgin birth, place of birth, time and method of death, etc...) Jesus has made claims to deity, but in the end, as with all religions it comes down to faith. *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* (Hebrews 11:6) You will never believe anything if you feel that you first have to _____ every other opinion.”

3. **“Yes, I think I’m saved but sometimes I don’t feel like it.”**

a. It is unwise to base something as important as eternal salvation on _____ and ever changing _____.

b. The Bible says that *“without faith, it is impossible to please him.”* (Hebrews 11:6) If the person is truly saved, they have accepted the salvation promised in God’s Word by faith without the aid of works. Ephesians 2:8-9 state that salvation is *“not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

Sin in the life of a Christian is often the cause of guilt and doubting salvation. (“If I was really saved, I wouldn’t do things like that!”) The fact that you are saved and still struggling with sin is not a new problem, the Apostle Paul said, *“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”* (Romans 7:23) Our feelings are often unreliable in matters of faith. Living victoriously in the Christian life is a matter of faith, just as much as the initial act of faith to believe in Christ.

c. **ANSWER:** “Feelings are subject to change at a moment’s notice. It is foolish to base something as serious as eternity on a changing feeling. The Bible says that we must have faith to please God. God said that if you *“believe on the name of the Son of God;... ye may know that ye have eternal life.”* (I John 5:13) God

cannot lie, (Titus 1:2) therefore we must take His word, not our feelings, as the basis of our eternal destiny.”

- d. ***SPECIAL NOTE:** The reason some people do not feel saved is very simply because _____. You must not talk them into a salvation that they do not possess. If they doubt their salvation ask them if they can show you from the Bible, or by biblical principles why they are saved. If they cannot do that it may be wise to show them how to be biblically saved.

4. **“Yes, I’m saved, but I’m backslidden.” (Drifted away from God)**

- a. *“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”* (Revelation 3:19)
- b. **ANSWER:** “A Christian cannot live in a perpetual state of _____, without the _____ of God in their life. God has said that *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (I John 1:9) This means the only obstacle standing between you and your relationship with God is your willingness to confess and forsake your sin. There is no sin that is beyond the forgiveness of God.”

5. **“My grandfather (uncle, brother etc...) was a preacher...”**

- a. The flaw in this thinking is that the actions of others somehow have an effect on your _____ before God.
- b. *“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”* (Romans 14:12)
- c. **ANSWER:** “If that is the case, (that their relative was a part of a church) then I’m sure that you are aware of what the Bible says: all have sinned (Romans 3:23), sin has earned you a place reserved in Hell (Romans 6:23), God does not want you to go to Hell so He sent His Son to die in your place, and it is a personal choice (Romans 14:12). God will judge you after you die on one of two things, your goodness and good deeds, but He has already told us that they will not suffice. *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;”* (Isaiah 64:6) Or He will judge you based upon what you do with the Gift of His Son. *“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”* (Hebrews 10:10)”

6. **“I think that I’ve done enough good things in my life to outweigh my bad deeds, so God will have to let me into Heaven.”**

- a. There are two major problems with this line of thinking. First there is an assumption that God will place all of your deeds into a set of hypothetical balances and see if you have been mostly good, or mostly bad. This is simply not the case. (Ephesians 2:8-9) God does not require _____ to get into Heaven, He requires _____. (Matthew 5:48) The second major flaw is that anyone can possibly do good in and of themselves. The Bible says that *“whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”* (James 2:10) The facts speak plainly that no one has kept all the commandments of God. (Romans 3:23) We sin because we are sinners. We are born in sin and therefore condemned from birth. We must be born again to have salvation. (John 3:3)
- b. **ANSWER:** “The Bible says when we come to God for salvation, our works do not matter at all. (Ephesians 2:8-9) God knew that if we could work to attain salvation we would brag about it when we had attained it. But the fact is, no amount of good works will get us to Heaven because God does not ask for goodness, He asks for _____. No one is perfect, (Romans 6:23) that is why we need Jesus Christ and what He did for us on Calvary. It is only by accepting through faith what He has done that we can ever be made acceptable in the eyes of a Holy God.”

7. **“I just don’t think about it much.”**

- a. This is the same reasoning as a child who covers his eyes and assumes that you cannot see him. Ignoring the problem will not make the problem go away.
- b. **ANSWER:** “You know the Bible says that one day we must stand before God and give an _____. You really should think about what you are going to have to account for on that day. Hebrews 9:27 says, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”*

8. **“When you’re dead that’s it, there is no Heaven or Hell.”**

- a. Most of the people who espouse this idea are doing it as a _____ to something, perhaps an unpleasant experience on their doorstep, with the attitude of “If I can’t see it it doesn’t exist.” People try to avoid _____ for their actions by making themselves believe that there is no hereafter. This position, though often contrary to the belief of those who hold it, requires a great amount of faith. Many times this position is a last resort to ease a guilty conscience. The Bible clearly states, *“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”* (Hebrews 9:27)
- b. **ANSWER:** “The Bible speaks of a second death (Revelation 20:14) in which those who reject Christ are separated from God for eternity in the Lake of Fire. The fact that we believe or disbelieve something does not make it true or false. Hebrews 9:27 says that *“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”* That means that one day you will stand before Christ and be _____. The Bible also says that *“at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;”* (Philippians 2:10)

9. **“I don’t worry about that stuff, I just leave it up to God.”**

- a. A person who would say this is one of two things, either not interested and wanting to be left alone, or perhaps genuinely confused about God’s dealing with man. The Bible says that God *“is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* (II Peter 3:9) God has given man a _____ and allows him to use it in whatever way he chooses. God will never work against the will of an individual in forcing them to make a decision either for or against His gift of salvation.
- b. **ANSWER:** “The Bible tells us in John 3:16 that God “gave His only begotten Son.” As with any gift it must be _____. God has never, nor will He ever force you to accept His gift. It is free for you to either take or reject. God has placed the decision in your hands.”

10. **“I don’t believe in God and I think that Book is a bunch of fairy tales.”**

- a. This position is requires enormous amounts of faith. _____ demands a _____. (Genesis 1:1)
- b. **ANSWER:** “What you’ve just said takes great faith. I hope you’ll give some thought to eternity. If you’re right, you have nothing to worry about, but if what I’ve told you is true, you are gambling with your _____. The Bible says, “*Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?*” (Proverbs 20:9) I hope you’ll think about that. Thank you for your time.”

11. **“I don’t go to church because it’s filled with hypocrites.”**

- a. This is both a _____ statement and an _____ one.
- b. **ANSWER:** “The Bible says, “*every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*” (Romans 14:12) The fact that many church people are hypocrites won’t matter when you have to stand before God alone. All that will matter is what you have done with Jesus Christ. (John 3:16)”

12. **“I know I need to get saved, but I need to get some things in my life right before I can come to God.”**

- a. This is a very dangerous thought for a lost person to have. Assuming upon tomorrow has put many in _____. “*Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*” (James 4:14) There is no way to make ourselves more acceptable to God. At our very best we are “*as filthy rags;*” (Isaiah 64:6) Christ died for all men and because of this, when we go to Him for salvation, He has promised that He “*will in no wise cast out.*” (John 6:37)
- b. **ANSWER:** “I have bad news and I have good news for you. The bad news is this, you could never be good enough to come to God, because God requires _____ to come into His presence. The good news is that God knew that none of us are perfect and that’s why He sent His Son (John 3:16) and made it possible for us to come to God, The Bible says, “*ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*” (Ephesians 2:13) The good news is found in John 1:12, “*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*”

This is a very limited list of some possible roadblocks and sidetracks that may be encountered while sharing your faith. The best preparation for the people and situations that you will encounter is getting into God's Word. The amount of Scripture in these notes is intentional. God has promised that His Word will not return unto Him void. (Isaiah 55:11) If we express God's truth in God's Words we will have God's blessing. Even the hardest hearts can be softened by the Word of God.

"God can use good preparation."

Lee Roberson