

Backyard evangelism as Spiritual Warfare? What are you talking about?

It s simple: Our neighbors and family members are held in bondage - we need a rescue operation!

Unfortunately, they often don t realize that they are being held in bondage. That is why we must tell them the truth, for the truth will set them free!

1. Why fight?
 - a. Because we love God and each other.
 - i. To reunite the children with their Father, and our brothers with our sisters.
 - (1) This is all about **RELATIONSHIP!**
 - (2) We are trying to win people back to God!
 - (a) His Children
 - (b) His Servants
 - (c) His Soldiers
 - (d) His Friends
 - ii. We cannot fight for our own glory, or we will soon find ourselves in the way of the rescue
 - (1) We are not trying to win souls for ourselves.
2. Who are we fighting?
 - a. Not flesh and blood!
 - i. We fight against Satan and his demons. Eph. 6:10.
 - b. We are trying to rescue those held in bondage. We are not fighting them.
 - i. We are attacking the chains that bind them, not the people themselves.

3. Where do we fight? The Gates of Hell - "Welcome to the trenches"
 - a. Matthew 16: 18: "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."
 - i. Typically, we see the Church as a fortress, a castle where we are protected and safe from Satan's attacking forces. Jesus says that the opposite is true; that the Church is the army that is positioned at the gates of Hades, ready to tear down the walls and rescue those dying inside.
 - ii. Gates don't attack!
 - (1) When was the last time you've seen someone chased by a gate?
 - iii. Satan has to pick His battles
 - (1) If you were an archer defending the gates of your castle, who would you shoot at? The comfortable soldiers roasting marshmallows in camp, or the fired-up soldiers who are trying to scale the walls?
 - (2) Don't be surprised by the difficulties of stepping out to serve God. You are drawing attention to yourself, and you are becoming a threat to the kingdom of darkness.
 - iv. How does he attack?
 - (1) Same old song and dance
 - (a) He causes us to stumble 1 John 2:16
 - (b) He accuses us for what we've done.
 - (i) Devil is Greek: "Diaballo" The Accuser.
 - (c) He tried to hold us in bondage for our sins.
 4. How do we fight?

- a. In our hearts, and in our minds
 - i. The place of struggle is to keep our faith in Jesus, and to worship Him in all things. To strengthen our relationship with God.
 - ii. When we are witnessing, serving the Lord, praising His name, and physically doing the things that God asks us to do, there is a sense of protection. A sense of victory and joy gives us strength to do this supernatural work. It is usually before or after this work that the true struggle takes place. When you are not sure that God will truly bless your efforts, and Satan tries to convince you that it is all a waste of time.
- b. Each individual has their own style and assignment
 - i. What kind are you?¹
 - (1) Paul, the "Intellectual Approach"
 - (2) Peter, the "Confrontational Approach"
 - (3) Matthew, the "Interpersonal Approach"
 - (4) The blind man, the "Testimonial Approach"
 - (5) Dorcas, the "Service Approach"
 - (6) The Samaritan Woman, the "Invitational Approach"
- c. We break the chains that bind the lost.
- d. A Worldview is a system of thought based on certain beliefs. Often people take these foundational beliefs for granted. A lot of confusion occurs while talking to people from different views, because we try to combine and merge thoughts that have to be interpreted differently in each view. You'll find that it is much easier to begin with what you do have in common, and build an understanding of that belief, before criticizing or educating people

¹Becoming a Contagious Christian: Bill Hybels; Zondervan, Grand Rapids Michigan 1994.

about what they are missing.

- i. "God is a myth, a crutch for the weak" (Secular Humanist)
 - (1) Atheist/Evolutionist
 - (2) Man is the sole hope for the world
 - (3) There is no "higher authority." Basically Man is god.
 - (4) Morality changes in each circumstance
 - (5) Strength and Ability is what is valued
 - (6) "Performance"
 - (7) Reason and Intelligence are the guides to surviving
 - (8) No supernatural, only science

- ii. "God is out there somewhere, but we'll never be able to know it. It will never help us out or care about us." (Cosmic Humanist)
 - (1) God is all, and is in all (New Age Thinking)
 - (2) God is neither good or evil.
 - (3) Man is responsible for its own survival.
 - (4) No judgement in life, possible reincarnation to do well next time.
 - (5) Metaphysical comfort and harmony is highly prized, even to the point of sacrifice for other people's comfort.
 - (6) There's no constant system of right or wrong.

- iii. "God will let me into heaven, because I'm good enough" (Theist)
 - (1) One God (or one god of this world - i.e. Mormonism)
 - (2) God is testing us on earth to see how we fare.
 - (3) Man is responsible for his/her own fate, depending on how well the rules are

followed.

- (4) We will be judged by whether we've done more good than bad, based on our interpretation of the "Rules"
 - (5) Respect for those who are "religious"; disdain for those who are not.
 - (6) No assurance of heaven.
- iv. "God is my pal, he just wants me to have fun!" (Pagan/Hedonist)
- (1) One God, or many Gods, it doesn't really seem to matter.
 - (2) No judgement.
 - (3) Emphasis is on pleasure and satisfaction
 - (4) Man is not responsible, karma/god/fate determines what happens.
 - (5) God, or gods are like man, (Zeus, Hera, Athena, Ares, Aphrodite, Etc.)
 - (6) If you please the gods, you can get away with whatever you want.
 - (7) Gods can be bribed, bought, or manipulated.
- v. "I am born again as a child of the Living God" (Christian Theist - See The Nicene Creed)
- (1) Responsible for our own sin.
 - (2) Separated from a relationship from God by that sin.
 - (3) Reunited with God by the death of Jesus Christ, who is God, born as a man, and crucified while completely innocent.
 - (4) One God, represented by three parts. The Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
 - (5) Our relationship with God on earth, (our acceptance of Him) determines our eternity after judgement.

- (6) This relationship is achieved by the acceptance of God's grace, through faith, not earned by good works.
- e. Common Ground: It is easier to talk to people regarding what they already believe, and then shed God's word on that way of thinking, until it comes more in line with the Gospel.

Below are some examples of how we as Christian Theists agree with the various other world views.

- i. Secular Humanist
 - (1) They know and/or respect history
 - (2) Hate Hypocrisy
 - (3) Recognize false legalism
 - (4) Respect relationships
- ii. Cosmic Humanist
 - (1) They recognize their separation from God
 - (2) Desire peace and relationships
 - (3) Recognize their imperfection
- iii. Theist
 - (1) They admit that there is Good vs. Bad
 - (2) Realize that Heaven requires righteousness
 - (3) They know that God is good and desirable.
- iv. Pagan/Hedonist
 - (1) They want a relationship with God
 - (2) They believe in grace, mercy and forgiveness.

