

PRACTICAL APOLOGETICS

Session 5 – Navigating Problems in Thinking

1. Views that Self-Destruct

Sometimes people state their views without noticing that the same arguments they are presenting, may be used to refute their own idea.

Sometimes, they may not be directly self-refuting but give way to “practical suicide.” The idea is not contradictory, but saying it makes it _____.

Other times, people will not state contradictory arguments, but they will raise multiple objections to your argument and these objections are at _____ with each other.

Finally, someone may state an objection which depends on a prior notion to be true for the challenge to be valid. However, if that objection _____ the prior notion on which it depends, then the argument is flawed.

2. Taking the Roof Off

How can you help them begin to see the flaw in their thinking? We want to remove the roof of their thinking. Three steps:

1. By asking _____, find out what the person is claiming as an assertion, principle, or moral rule.
2. _____ through what the assertion, principle, or moral rule implies. Are there inconsistencies or things that appear wrong when you follow them to their natural conclusions.
3. If you find a problem, point it out using questions that encourage the person to consider the _____ of their ideas.

3. Assessing Appeals to Authority

No matter which credentials have been presented, always ask for _____. Don't settle for opinions.

Norman Geisler: "All appeals to authority ultimately rest on the evidence the authority has. The letters after his name don't mean a thing without the evidence to back up his position."

Even experts can be _____. Always ask *why* a person has a certain view. The expert should be able to point to evidence to support his view. The evidence is more important than the letters behind a person's name.

4. Just the Facts

Be aware that many challenges to Christianity are based on bad information.

Two-Step Process

1. What is the _____? Be clear on it.
2. Is the claim factually _____? Check out the facts for yourself.

5. Dealing with the Steamroller

1. _____ him: Make a genial request for courtesy.
2. _____ him: If the steamroller continues to interrupt, calmly point this out.
3. _____ him: If the steamroller won't allow you to be part of the conversation, leave (Mat 7:6).

Conclusion

The more you sweat in training, the less you _____ in battle.

Find other believers who will meet with you regularly to _____ topics that prepare them as ambassadors for Christ.

Don't avoid those who _____ with you. Don't be discouraged when others get the best of you. Know and speak the truth. Leave the rest to God.