

Why Reason For Truth When Sharing Your Faith In A Politically Correct Culture?

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Early in December of 2015, one week after the San Bernardino, CA terrorist attack which resulted in death of 14 innocent people with another 22 injured, my mobile phone rang. I was in my home office and it was my wife calling me from outside of the house. Her voice was concerned as she communicated in a concerned tone that a home contractor company representative (who we were expecting) had arrived as scheduled. His name was Muhammad, and he had a large Bowie knife. I calmly went out to meet Muhammad regarding access to our crawl space and the first thing that I asked myself was, "Ought I give this person who looks like a Muslim, has the name Muhammad, and is carrying a very large Bowie knife a Reason for the Truth and hope that we as Christians have? (1 Peter 3:15).

I wondered what Muhammad's worldview was. As a Muslim, he was almost certain to subscribe to absolute truth. *Metaphysical* Relativism proclaims that there are no absolutes anywhere in reality and *Epistemological* Relativism proclaims the same for human knowledge. I surmised that Muhammad didn't embrace any category of relativism because while the Islamic faith is wrong about who God is, they are right about moral absolutes and absolute truth. My starting point for sharing the truth of Christ in my conversation with Muhammad would be to reason from absolute truth and that a theistic God of the universe exists-absolutely to the truth that Jesus Christ is the Truth. If he were an atheist or agnostic, I would have to start by addressing the belief that truth is relative which would render the existence of God and person of Jesus Christ as the true God relative. I decided that I would approach Muhammad by addressing what truth *is*. First, truth is what corresponds to reality. Second, truth is telling it as it really is. Third, truth is what "is". Such an approach would be politically incorrect, just as Jesus was politically incorrect. If I were to be politically correct, I would have to redefine truth as something relative as opposed to absolute. This would mandate that my conversation with Muhammad deny the truth about Jesus Christ as the true God.

First, truth is *what corresponds to reality*. This includes the fact that truth is *transcultural*. By this I mean that $2+2=4$ for all people, in all cultures, at all times. I was born in America the son of a Sicilian immigrant and raised in Western culture according to the Christian faith and absolute truth. Muhammad, from his accent, was probably born in India where the philosophical and theological position about truth is relative. However, as a Muslim, Muhammad would surely reject relativism. I saw this potential conflict as a good starting point for sharing the Truth of Jesus Christ with him. If I could get Muhammad to reason for truth, then I could show him logically that it is true that $2+2=4$ for Muslims, Hindus, and Christians. This would create a starting point for me to share the truth that Jesus is the true God. All mankind once believed that

the world was flat. That changed once we discovered the truth about the earth's shape. Belief cannot change truth despite how sincere our beliefs or feelings might be.

Second, truth is *telling it as it really is*. In the Book of John 18:38, Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" This indicates that Pilate knew some truth. Furthermore, by exonerating Jesus, Pilate was telling it like it is. In the politically correct world that we find ourselves in today, telling it as it is really brings intolerance-in the name of tolerance.ⁱ The truth is that political correctness is hypocritical, self-defeating, and unable to handle the truth. Truth levels the playing field in that God asks us to use fair and balanced scales. "Honest scales and balances belong to the Lord; all the weights in the bag are of his making" (Proverbs 16:11). Furthermore, "The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him" (Proverbs 20:23). While the Lord is using the weighing of metals as currency, the principle He is speaking to is being honest in all of life's transactions-including how we speak and the use of our words. Political correctness is mankind's effort to control the meaning of words and truth. Political Correctness is at odds with truth because *telling it as it is* means speaking the truth, including the truth about God.

Third, truth is *what is*. The earth is round, not flat. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, not a prophet, or just a great religious and moral man. First principles of logic which are simple logical essentials behind the process by which we discover all things about and in the world affirms this.ⁱⁱ A First Principle, the *Law of Noncontradiction* says that opposite ideas cannot both be true and not true at the same time and in the same sense. This means that Islam and Christianity cannot both be truth at the same time and in the same sense. The same can be said of Hinduism, which simply means, "the religion of India."ⁱⁱⁱ The Medieval Muslim philosopher Avicenna said, "Anyone who denies the Law of Noncontradiction should be beaten and burned until he admits that to be beaten is not the same as not to be beaten, and the to be burned is not the same as not to be burned!"^{iv} First Principles of Logic tells it like it is. They are tools that we all use to discover all other truths. Without them we couldn't learn anything else. By not telling the truth, saying it like it is, we become confused about knowing anything absolutely and for certain. This seemed like a good starting point for me to begin conversing with Muhammad.

By giving a reason for truth, I could proclaim that truth can be known, which in-turn leads to the conclusion that the truth about God can be known. If truth can be known than we can absolutely know which God is the True God.

By exposing the truth about the absolute truth, we clear the way to the absolute existence of the true God of the universe. This is the mission of Reason for Truth in enabling believers to use apologetics in evangelism.

While I was speaking with Muhammad, my mobile phone rang and a friend called to encourage me and let me know that he is praying for Reason For Truth. I thanked him for praying for us and let that conversation be heard by Muhammad as a precursor to my asking him about his cultural and religious beliefs. As I got to know a little bit about our home inspector Muhammad, I learned that he was from India and that he and his family grew up in the Islamic faith. As it

turns out, he carries the Bowie knife because he runs into snakes and varmints when working under residential home crawl spaces.

While in America, he, his mother, and his two brothers all got saved and attend a local church pastored by a dear friend of mine who ministers to a multi-cultural community. I told Muhammad that I can see the love of God-of Jesus Christ in him and I gave him my phone number and email with the invitation to call me at any time. In turn, he took the worksheet that he had given me outlining the work he had performed that day on my house and then wrote something on the back in blue pen. He handed that document for me to read. He wrote the first and last names of every person of in his family. He also wrote the word “dad” before the last name. Before leaving, Muhammad told me that his dad is the only person in his family who has not yet committed his life to Christ. He asked me to please pray for his family-especially for his dad to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

As I went back inside my home, it occurred to me that we never know who we are speaking with. More importantly, we must always be *ready* and *willing* to give a reason for the truth and the hope that lies within us as believers in Jesus Christ, even when it might seem uncomfortable or when it is politically incorrect.

Today, it is politically incorrect to say that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life — but it is the truth. Only His truth changes lives and unlocks the beauty of our full worth as men and women who are made in His image. Only He can change our hearts so we are able to love our neighbors.

We must remember that the only thing that counts is true faith "expressing itself through love" (Galatians 5:6).^v And this is why, we Reason For Truth.

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ⁱ Steven Garofalo, *Right For You, But Not For Me-A Response To Moral Relativism*, (Charlotte, NC: Triedstone Publishing Company, 2013), 253.

ⁱⁱ *IBID.*, 202.

ⁱⁱⁱ Winfried Corduan, *A Christian Introduction to World Religions Neighboring Faiths*, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998), 189.

^{iv} Norman L. Giesler, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004), 57.

^v Michael Youssef, *Political Correctness vs. Faith*, <http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/leading-the-way/read/articles/political-correctness-vs-faith-11415.html>