

## Class Meeting 2

### Chapter 1 – *The Need for Pre-Evangelism in a Postmodern World*

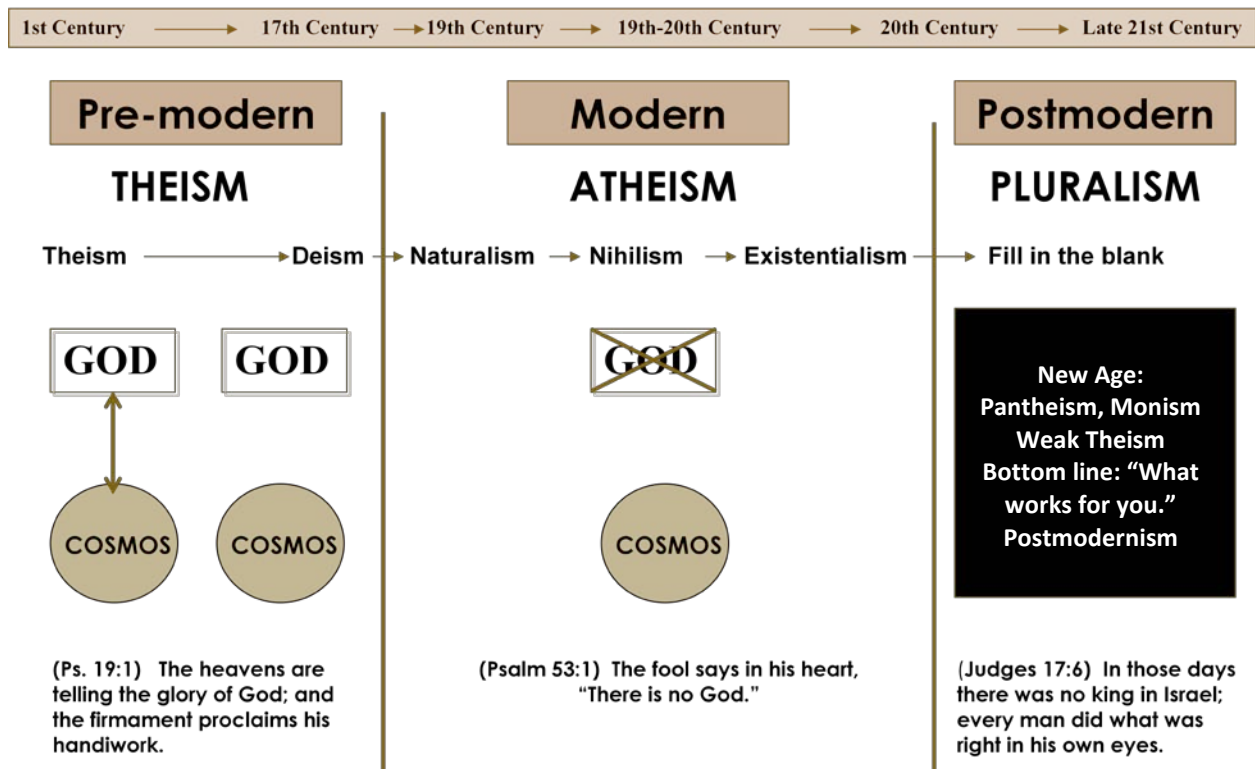
#### The World We Live in Has Changed

People seem less and less interested in a simple presentation of the facts of the Gospel.

#### A World View Shift

“...a major cause of our current crisis consists of a world view shift from a Judeo-Christian understanding of reality to a post-Christian one.” ( J. P. Moreland, Love Your God with All Your Mind, p. 21)

### Historical Development of Western World Views Changing Beliefs - Pluralism



#### Problems Doing Evangelism in the World We Live in

“It is hard to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to people who believe that, since morality is relative, they have no sins to forgive.” (Gene Veith, Postmodern Times, p. 16)

#### Defining Pre-Evangelism

If evangelism is planting seeds of the Gospel, pre-evangelism is tilling the soil of their mind and heart, preparing them to at least be willing to listen to the Truth. (Mark 2:22, 4:8)

Being Effective in Pre-evangelism means I will... “see evangelism more as a process”

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.” (1 Corinthians 3: 6)

**Redefining What We Mean by Evangelism (Expanded Definition of Evangelism)**

“Every day and in every way helping our pre-believing friends to take one step closer to Jesus Christ.”  
(Dave Geisler)

**Changing Our Strategy in Evangelistic Encounters**

Why Not Just Proclaim the Truth? “We live in a world where people are reluctant to be told what is true, but are willing in some cases to see for themselves (as in a mirror) the inconsistencies in what they believe.” (Dave Geisler)

**Asking Probing Questions**

Being Effective in Pre-evangelism means...allowing others to discover the truth for themselves by asking them probing questions about what they say they believe!

“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

**Discussion**

1. Ask yourself: Who do I know that I’ve had trouble witnessing to in the past using a more traditional approach to evangelism? What could I do differently in future conversations based on what I learned in this chapter (see John 16:12)?
2. If I truly believed that engaging others in pre-evangelistic conversation is necessary in today’s world, I would

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**Application Points**

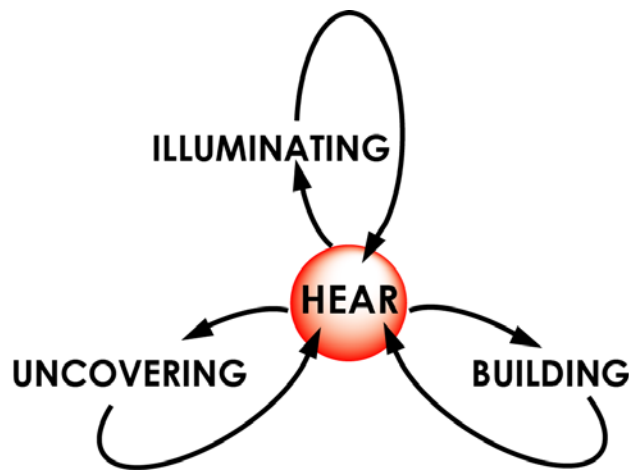
1. Determine the three people you most want to reach with the Gospel (this could be family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates). Write their names under the space provided in the appendix 1 worksheet. Ask God for wisdom (James 1:5) to know how to build pre-evangelistic bridges in your conversations with them over the next few months.
2. Pray for the three people you identified in the previous question, asking God to move in their lives in a way that creates great spiritual openness. Ask God also for sensitivity in using daily conversations in ways that create greater openness for spiritual dialogue.

3. Pray for God to strengthen you to be a positive and consistent witness to the people in your life; pray that Christ would be evident in your life as you interact with them day by day (Philippians 1:14).
4. Pray for open doors to plant seeds of the Gospel of Christ with those around you as you go about your daily routine, and for God to give you the wisdom and strength to be a good witness in how you speak God's truth to them (Acts 14:1). Meditate on Colossians 4:2-6.

## Chapter 2 – Introduction to Conversational Evangelism

### Four Types of Conversational Engagements

There are four types of conversations we want to have with our nonbelieving friends: (1) Hearing Conversations (2) Illuminating Conversations (3) Uncovering Conversations and (4) Building Conversations.



### Jesus' Use of Questions

See these references: Matthew 12:9-14, John 7:21-24, John 10:22-41, Matthew 7:11, Matthew 22:41-46, Luke 6:6-11.

### Asking Questions in a Nonthreatening Way

1. Ask questions in a way that surfaces uncertainty about a nonbeliever's own perspective.
2. Minimize a nonbeliever's defensiveness.
3. Create in nonbelievers a curiosity to want to hear more.

### A Strategy for Sharing

The Importance of Being A Good Listener: "He who gives an answer before he hears, It is folly and shame to him." (Proverbs 18:13) (NASB)

"My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." (James 1:19-20)

### **Key Components of the Pre-Evangelism Model**

1. Active Listening
2. Positive Deconstructionism
3. A Questioning Approach that Allows Others to Surface the Truth
4. The Boomerang Principle (which involves removing the burden of truth from us to them)
5. Determining the Real Barriers to the Gospel
6. Finding Common Ground
7. A Strategy for Building a Bridge to the Gospel (both intellectual and heart bridges)
8. A Basic Knowledge of the Christian Faith and What Makes Jesus Unique

### **What Do We Want to Trust the Holy Spirit to Do?**

To empower us to speak in a way that makes a difference. (Acts 14:1)

To empower us to live godly lives. (Philippians 1:14)

### **Discussion**

1. Why do you think the Mormon I talked with felt open to chat with me even when he discovered I was a non-Mormon and he suspected that we disagreed on so much?
2. What kinds of things could someone have said to him that could have caused him to get defensive and cut off any more spiritual dialogue? How can you and I avoid running into spiritual roadblocks in future conversations with our friends or acquaintances?
3. Have you ever had an experience where someone with a different belief than yours seemed to enjoy your spiritual conversation with them? What things might have kept that person continuing the dialogue with you?
4. Think back to the first time you learned how to present the Gospel using a simple script. You might have felt at one time that you would never be able to share the Gospel in a natural, unforced way. What changed to allow you to feel more comfortable explaining the Gospel to people?
5. What might motivate you to learn a pre-evangelistic approach, even if it seemed difficult, impersonal, and mechanical at first (1 Chronicles 12:32)?
6. Complete this statement: Knowing that I am just God's instrument helps me in witnessing by

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(1 Corinthians 1:27).

7. Review the examples in this chapter about Jesus and His use of questions. What examples stand out in your mind and why?
  
8. Think of one situation you may have found yourself in recently while talking with friends where you were able to use questions to help them in their spiritual journey. What was it about your questions that helped them?

**Application Points**

1. Read the summary chart in appendix 2, steps 1-4, which gives the big picture of the Conversational Evangelism model. As you go through the chapters of this book, refresh your understanding of each point of the model by looking back at the chart. This will help you absorb more quickly into your memory the important concepts of the model, which could help you as you develop your top three list (appendix 1).
  
2. Complete this statement of personal commitment: In light of my greater understanding of how Jesus used questions, this week in my witness to my friends, I will

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3. Complete this statement of personal commitment: For me to speak more persuasively to my friends (Acts 14:1) and in dependency on God (John 6:65), I will begin to

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