

“How Ye Ought To Answer Every Man”

Col. 4:2-6

Introduction

- A large part of the challenge and joy of being a Christian is presenting the good news that saved us to those who are lost.
- Just one of the things that makes the manner of our lives and speech so important. (Phil. 2:15-16; Matt. 5:13-16; Titus 2:10; Col. 4:6)
- Col. 4:6 → Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.
- Things that are necessary for us to be “soul winners” those who sow the seed.
 - Character: the kind of life, disposition, that would attract others to the gospel of Christ. (Titus 2:10)
 - Knowledge: Can’t present the gospel without knowing it – preparation, having a lesson to teach. (I Pet. 3:15; II Pet. 3:18)
 - Sense of mission: (Lk. 19:10; Acts 8:1-4; 15:35)
 - Knowing how to answer to take advantage of the opportunities we have:
 - If I had just known what to say...
 - Wish I had said this...
 - I don’t know how to teach...
 - I don’t know where to start...
- Lesson: How to answer

I. We Need To Study The Teaching Methods of Jesus

- He was the Master Teacher. (Matt. 7:28; Jn. 7:47)
- Examine his teaching in Matt. 21:23ff
 - Jesus responded with a question.
 - Jesus often asked questions. (Matt. 6:25; Matt. 19:3-4; Lk. 10:26, etc.)
 - He was not being coy, but exposing their motives and putting himself in the best possible position to teach them, if they will open their hearts.
 - If they will answer Jesus question correctly, he can show them where He got his authority.
 - We see that His motive is pure. Their motive is poor.
 - It is important to lay a foundation for our answer or teaching. To begin where the hearer is.
- Sometimes being ready to give an answer involves being ready to ask the right questions to help the learner come to see what the truth is.
- The value of asking questions in teaching:
 - To learn as much information as you can about what the other person believes. To get a starting point.
 - To avoid making unwarranted assumptions:
 - About what they really believe
 - About their level of Bible knowledge.
 - To put self in best position to teach them.
 - To help them to see the weakness of error of their currently held view.
 - To facilitate a study from the word of God.
- Paul reasoned from the scriptures. (Acts 17:2)
- Jesus continued to ask questions (Matt. 21:28,31)
 - Do they have an attitude of submission or rebellion?
 - Are they willing to listen to the word of God?
- Example: Conversation about man “saved” in the grocery store.

II. Three Questions To Ask One We Are Teaching

- **What? How? Have You considered?**
 - **What do you mean by that?**
 - What is the nature of your understanding in that matter? Gather information. Get them to state and clarify their belief. See where they are coming from. Put yourself in their shoes to put your self in the best position to teach them.

- The value of listening.

–**How did you arrive at that conclusion**, position, belief?

–One who would make an assertion, state a belief has the burden of proof. What is the source of what you are practicing? Would you share with me how you arrived at that position? (I Pet. 3:15; I Pet. 4:11; II Jn. 9)

–The burden of proof is reversed. The shoe on the other foot.

–**Have you considered...?** Challenge them to closely examine their belief by a statement, fact, passage of scripture that challenges the validity of it.

- Jesus does this in Matt. 22:42-43, as he challenges the validity of what they believed about the Messiah with this question: “How then does David in the spirit call him Lord...”
- Have you taken into account this text that would refute your position about this issue?
- Put a rock in their shoe. Something for them to contemplate in opposition to their notion.
- Can we study this from the word of God?

III. Some Illustrations:

- #1 → Someone asserts, “All religions are the same.”
- #2 → Someone states, “I believe that miracles are being performed today.”
- #3 → Someone tells you, Jesus was the Archangel Michael of the Old Testament.
- #4 → Someone makes a statement like this, “the bible has been translated so many times, we can’t understand it anymore.”
- #5 → Someone else says, “I just don’t believe that it is necessary to be baptized to be saved”.

Conclusion: Have you submitted to God’s word to be saved?