

## **Evangelism Class 7**

### **Responses to Common Objections**

**I have been encouraged by conversations I have had with several of you about evangelistic conversations you have had since beginning this class as well as the new people you have met within this class. I too had a conversation this week. A man had come to church...he may have come before but I did not know him. He told me that he had settled religious and philosophical beliefs that he was not interested in changing. He is a man with a compassionate heart, a willingness and interest to serve others but is at present not interested in changing his views on many things that the Bible teaches about Jesus, eternal life, forgiveness of sins etc. We had a positive conversation. I did a lot of listening. He allowed me to pray for him. He was not hostile but actually sought me out and allowed me to pray with him. Not long after that, I was in a conversation with a friend, who was having a problem. The same man also was trying to comfort and help her. We came up with some next steps and he prayed with the two of us that Jesus would guide her as she had difficult choices before her and a situation she was powerless to control. Sunday he was back in church...so the story is not over...please pray for my new friend Joe.**

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**Again, one thing we are not trying to do is to argue. We are trying to engage, to listen, to ask questions. When Rabbis taught they usually asked questions. The game show Jeopardy, gives the answer and the contestant must then ask the right question to which the answer has been given. In many ways, that is the method Bill Fay is trying to teach us...to listen and then ask the next right question...he begins with an assumption...God is orchestrating this meeting and loves the person more than he does. He believes that God is at work in the life of the person and that the results are God's. He then seeks to know the person by asking them questions, by listening to their answers, and by asking the next right question.**

**Tonight if you have brought your book, I would like you to look at chapter 8, titled Ready Responses to Common Objections. Pages 79-111. Also, look at Appendix 2 pages 151-179.**

**Remember that our goal is to have a spiritual conversation not win an argument, to ask questions and to listen to answers...but this part will involve us learning some scripture and to learn to have it ready and be able to share it and guide our friend to read it and ask what it says to them.**

**I also commend a new book I am reading about evangelism by James Choung titled Real Life A Christianity Worth Living Out published by IVP. Mr. Choung has a helpful continuum of where we might find people,**

**Skeptic**

**Seeker**

**Follower**

**Leader**

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**World Changer**

**He suggests that our hopes for people at each of these levels are different.**

**Skeptic-Seek to build trust**

**Seekers-Challenge toward next steps**

**Followers-Train to hear God's voice and obey it**

**Leaders-Give power and authority**

**World Changers-Cast vision for broader impact**

**Tonight I would like to give you some time to again pick someone you do not know or do not know well and pair off. Choose one of the 36 objections and try the script of responses and then switch roles. At the end I will ask you some questions.**