



Part 7: Speaking the Truth in Love

(Ephesians 4:15)

INTRODUCTION – Testing the Walls

Major premise...	All apples are red.
Minor premise...	Bruxy is holding something green.
Conclusion...	Bruxy is not holding an apple.

DINE IN – Fighting a Battle – Nicely

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.
~ 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (ESV)

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.
~ Colossians 4:5-6 (TNIV)

TAKE OUT – Battle Manoeuvres

1. Expose self-refuting arguments.

Respond with a question, applying their argument to their own statement.

- There is no absolute truth. (Is that statement absolutely true?)
- Science is the only way to know truth. (Is that a scientific statement?)
- People's beliefs are just products of how they were raised. (Were you raised to believe that?)
- All religions are equally true. (So what I believe about Jesus being the only way is true?)
- All religions are rubbish.

2. Know the facts in areas of common misconception.

- There is no historical information about Jesus' young adult years. None.
- Religions disagree about most core issues (God, sin, salvation).
- Jesus made exclusive truth claims.
- The earliest Christ-followers treated Jesus as divine.
- The Gnostic gospels were written decades-to-centuries after the biblical gospels – too late to be historically helpful.
- The biblical gospels were chosen by the church because they were the earliest (all first century) and most preserved by the churches.
- Jesus' teaching makes sense within a Jewish context, not Egyptian, not Indian.
- Jesus' teaching is a) from a single mind, b) from a Jewish background, c) fully formed before the end of the first century. d) leads the way out of religion into intimacy with the divine, compassionate community, and other-centred love.
- Biblical faith means to trust in the personal nature of the universe, not to believe things blindly with no evidence.
- The failure of religion is evidence in favour of Christ, not against.
- By far, the most effective compassion organizations in the world are and have always been Christian. (Few, if any, are Buddhist or Hindu.)

3. Discern the reasons for resistance & respond accordingly.

1. Intellectual hurdles (Provide evidence. Invite experts.)
2. Emotional repulsion (Offer empathy. Point to Christ.)
3. Accountability avoidance – I don't want to be told how to live.
4. Arrogance – I can't be so wrong about something so big.
5. Apathy – I'm not searching because I'm safe and secure.

Matthew 7:6; John 19:9; Matthew 21:27

CONCLUSION – Bringing the Best Out of the Worst

Matthew 10:24-25

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. What questions or aspects of evangelism do you want to understand more clearly?

Look to the Book...

2. Let's confront some misinformation about the Bible with the Bible. For each false belief, use the text to practice an informed response. Also incorporate any other texts that come to mind. A) Jesus never claimed to be more than a prophet or teacher – **John 14:1-9**. B) John's gospel doesn't count because it was written too late. In the earliest gospel, Mark, Jesus is just a regular prophet – **Mark 12:1-12**. C) Jesus was likely mentored by Buddhist monks in Kashmir during his young adult years. His teaching was obviously influenced by a Buddhist worldview – **Matthew 6:9-15; Mark 14:35-36**.

So What?...

3. What are some of the most common objections your non-Christian friends/family give you for not following Jesus? Discuss possible responses to these common objections.
4. Read **Colossians 4:5-6**. Do you tend to over-salt your conversation (being so gracious when discussing faith that you avoid sharing the distinctive truth of the gospel)? Or do you tend to under-salt (proclaiming truth boldly, all the while leaving a bitter taste in people's mouths)? Pray for each other to find the right balance.

The Meeting House | Sunday, July 11 / 18, 2010 | Bruxy Cavey

Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching