

CALEBS TIPS AND TRICKS EDITION!

Christian Conversations



ESTABLISHING YOUR AIM



- Your aim is the most important thing to have in mind when entering a Christian Conversation.
 - If you are being attacked, your aim should be to provide a defence of your faith and challenge their beliefs. (This presentation mainly focuses on this kind of conversation)
 - If you are talking with someone who genuinely wants to know about God, your aim should be to help them as much as possible

It's quite unlikely that you will convert anyone on the spot, don't aim to make someone a Christian with just a single conversation.

Rather, aim to be part of the journey that leads them there.



DO'S AND DON'TS

As a Christian, you are not only participating in a debate of ideas but representing Jesus through your actions so it's important to watch how you act.



DO

Pray – It doesn't need to be a long prayer (you might not get the chance) but if your representing God, you should probably get his input on it.

DONT

Get Angry / Emotional – Your emotions will not aid your point, as you won't think clearly. They also can make you appear desperate and may not portray your beliefs in a positive light.

DO

Listen to them – If you want to actually challenge someone's ideas, they need to be listening, which means you need to listen to their points and genuinely understand what they are saying too.

Remember: What we believe is the Truth, so it can stand up to questioning.

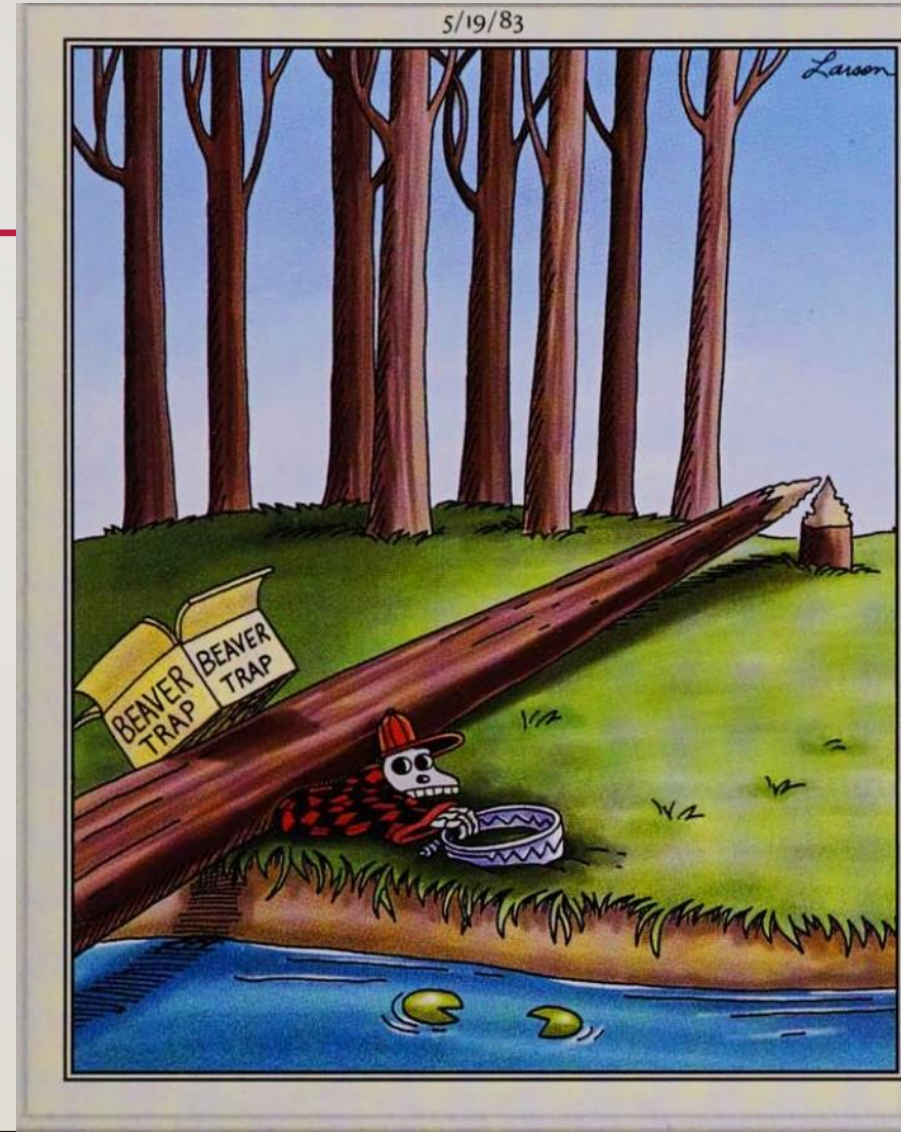




TRAPS

“That’s where you’ve gotta have faith right?”

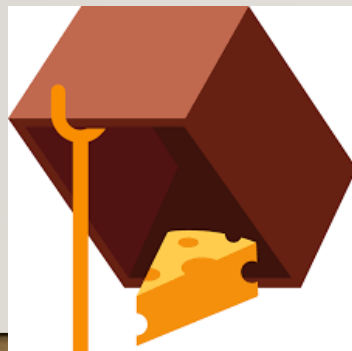
Their definition of Faith is almost certainly different to yours! A statement to you may seem true but be aware that faith to them is a ‘write-off’ statement. A good and truthful follow up to these kind of traps is ‘not just faith’ and then diving into evidence or reasoning behind their idea.



MORE TRAPS

Other ‘write off’ statements.

Anything along the lines of “oh, so you just are/believe XYZ” or conclusion statements like “each to their own” are examples of write off statements. These statements often undermine or devalue any reasoning or evidence you’ve already said, even if they might sound true on the surface. Keep an ear out for them!



A response to a write off statement:

“Each to their own”

“Well yeah everyone has different opinions on this stuff, but its important if there is a truth out there, especially if its as important as eternal life, that everyone know about it.”

TACTICS TO WATCH FOR: ***STEAM ROLLING***

Steam rolling is a tactic in which you are perpetually bombarded with questions and not given the proper chance to respond..

- If someone is steamrolling you it means they likely aren't willing to listen to your response
- Steamrolling is frustrating as it can quickly lead a conversation nowhere.
 - It can be caused by frustration on their side.
 - You can be a steam roller too, make sure you don't.

The solution to Steam Rolling is to call it out, tell them they aren't letting you fairly respond to them. If tensions have risen, it might be best to agree to continue the conversation another day.



TACTICS TO WATCH FOR: *RANDOMNESS*

- Sometimes you can be hit with a question so unexpected that you don't know how to respond. The best thing to do in these type of situations is to spot the key underlying point and address that.



Real World Example

“What if we have the wrong side? There isn’t a book written by the other side, so we don’t have the full picture.”

Not a common question, however, with some digging, the key point attacked here is “Is God good?” (thus should we be following him) which is pretty simple response.

Response: “We can analyse the teachings of the side we do have, and you’d agree they teach moral good, so therefore we can conclude we are following the right side.”

ITS OKAY TO NOT KNOW – SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND



- Sometimes you will stumble into topics you don't understand and there is no shame in saying "I'll have to look into that one".
- Remember, you're working with and for God. Christian conversations can seem daunting but in reality, they're just part of the job. Gods always got your back, and you can rely on him to help you find answers you don't know.

The Mission

1 Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:
and be ready always to give an answer to every man that
asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with
meekness and fear:

The Promise

Mathew 10:19 - But when they deliver you up, take
no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be
given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.