Head, Heart & Hand Methodology

1) Head

Having the Right Methodology

The Biblical Worldview is the most perfect worldview.

People "cannot make any sense of the world morally, logically or scientifically" unless they have a Biblical worldview, "since Christianity alone supplies the required conditions for these areas of life to be intelligible." - Groothuis

Question: Why should we not try to prove Christianity is True, or that God exists?

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles."

Romans 1:21-22, NIV

Well Known Atheist made this statement (a reflection to these verses)

"I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that." ("The Last Word" by Thomas Nagel, Oxford University Press: 1997)"

— <u>Thomas Nagel</u>

We do not need to prove God exists, as everyone knows that God exists.

Our Approach

Out of love and respect we take the time to learn their worldview through friendly conversations while they learn about ours. These conversations will lead to realizations that their worldview has flaws and is less livable when comparing it to the Biblical worldview.

Remember people assume Christianity is guilty until proven innocent, and Secularism is innocent until proven guilty.

¹ Douglas Groothuis, Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith, (Intervarsity Press, USA, 2011), 62.

Reality Check:

If you don't have Jesus, then you don't have all the facts, or truth! No wonder these people that you love dearly are questioning and struggling.

We actually know what reality is, and God calls us to share the hope that God has given us through gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

Strength to this Approach:

A) We cannot Know Everything:

B) The Bible is the ultimate authority of truth

Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, said, "I am the truth" (<u>John 14:6</u>) and "God's word is truth" (<u>John 17:17</u>). Jesus claimed to define what truth is, and He said God's Word is the ultimate judge of truth (<u>John 12:48</u>). No truth exists apart from Him. As the Bible explains it, "In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (<u>Colossians 2:3</u>). So the Bible clearly claims an exalted position as the ultimate authority.

Therefore, every worldview is flawed in truth since all truth is from God. As a result, a worldview can only function as a livable worldview if they borrow from the Biblical Worldview.

C) A Healthier Way in speaking with people who have been hurt by other Christians.

Admit there are enormous amount of hypocrisy within different religions practicers, but Jesus was completely against this. So we need to ask the question when someone is disinterested in Jesus because of a hypocrite, "How well did that person who hurt you represent Jesus?" They will know that we our His disciples by our love. (John 13:34-35)

Having the Right Methodology Changes Minds

Antony Flew (Atheist)- "there is a God"- argued that scientific data, fine tuning of the universe, conscientiousness.... There is an intelligent designer. He did not change his methodology, but science evidence changed his mind. He then says he has to be open to a miracle, since there is a divine creator.

"we still have to come to terms with the origin of the laws of nature. And the only viable explanation here is the divine Mind." There Is A God, pg. 121 Antony Flew

"the laws of nature, life with its teleological organization, and the existence of the universe—can only be explained in the light of an Intelligence that explains both its own existence and that of the world. Such a discovery of the Divine does not come through experiments and equations" There Is A God, pg. 155 Antony Flew

"I now believe that the universe was brought into existence by an infinite Intelligence. I believe that this universe's intricate laws manifest what scientists have called the Mind of God. I believe that life and reproduction originate in a divine Source. Why do I believe this, given that I expounded and defended atheism for more than a half century? The short answer is this: this is the world picture, as I see it, that has emerged from modern science."

- Antony Flew, <u>There is a God</u>, (Kindle:1087)

2) Heart

COMPASSION & LOVE

When we defend and share our faith with others, we need to make sure love and compassion drives our conversations. God created each person you meet and loves each one very dearly. We saw this love and compassion within Jesus ministry.

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:35-38.

How do people live each day when they do not have Jesus?

How do they live each day without the hope of Jesus?

Are you broken for the broken hearted?

3) Hand

25 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 20:25-28

"During the war a church in Strasburg, Germany, was totally destroyed; but a statue of Christ which stood by the altar was almost unharmed. Only the hands of the statue were missing. When the church was rebuilt, a famous sculptor offered to make new hands; but, after considering the matter, the members decided to let it stand as it was—without hands. "For," they said, "Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work on earth. If we don't feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, entertain the stranger, visit the imprisoned, and clothe the naked, who will?" Christ is depending on us to do the very things which He did while upon earth. My friend, if the gospel we preach does not have a social application, if it will not work effectively in the work-a-day world, then it is not the Gospel of Christ." - Billy Graham