

1 Peter 3:15 " but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is you, yet with gentleness and reverence;"

Colossians 4:5&6 "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person."

Interested in obeying the commands set forth above, I have mused over the usefulness of good questioning and listening skills in sharing the Gospel one on one. Exercising my spiritual gift of plagiarism, I have polled and recorded the most useful questions employed by the those whom I believe to be among the most effective evangelists in Billings.

OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS USED TO KNOW YOUR FRIEND BETTER

1. Who is your best friend?
2. Who are some of your heroes?
3. What are you looking forward to?
4. Tell me about your family and growing up.
5. What are some of your goals for this year?
6. My hobby is prayer. How might I best pray for you?
7. What are the attributes you most admire in a person?
8. What is the most important thing you spend your money on?
9. What is your greatest achievement to date?
10. What is the most important thing you will leave behind when you die?
11. What will you want people to say about you at your funeral? If your funeral were today, what do you think people would say about you?
12. How do you think the world got to be in such a mess?
13. How do you think it all began?

MORE SERIOUS, PROBING QUESTIONS

1. Are you interested in spiritual matters?
2. If you were to die tonight, where would you be tomorrow?
3. Tell me about your spiritual pilgrimage to date. (or) Tell me about your spiritual heritage.
4. In your opinion who is Jesus Christ?
5. Describe your world view to me.
6. If you were to defend the claims of Christ, how would you go about it?
7. Why do you think we exist?
8. I am worried about you. You have so much going for you in this life, I am afraid you won't consider the next life in time and will spend eternity in hell. What do you think?
9. It has been said that Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord of the universe. Who do you think he was?
10. What is the worst thing you have ever done?
11. How often would you estimate that you sin each day? How about the very best of people? and the very worst? Do you think that ultimately God will grade on the curve?
12. Are you absolutely convinced that Jesus Christ is not who He said He is?
13. If you were to die tonight and were standing before God who asked you, "why should I let you in to my Heaven?", how would you respond?
14. Can you think of any problem in the world that isn't caused by people breaking the 10th Commandment (thou shall not covet)?
15. Have you had any dealings with the occult?
16. What does the term "Christian" mean to you?
17. What is it that really offends you about: the Bible? the Church? people who call themselves Christians?

SMOKE SCREEN REMOVERS (designed to lovingly expose flawed logic)

1. How many hours of study would you estimate you have spent in developing this (your) world view?
2. Could you point to one or two of the contradictions you see in the Bible?
3. Is there anything keeping you from bowing the knee to Jesus right now?
4. Tell me, why did you baptize your children? (or) Why do you celebrate Christmas?

\*\*Certainly, as believers, we want to be led of the Spirit when we share our faith with others; however, too often we choose to be unprepared because we are either lazy or fearful. A doctor carefully plans his next surgery, the attorney labors long over his closing arguments, a professor reviews well for his classroom lecture, and the professional salesman comes to the boardroom with charts and graphs and his presentation well thought out. Yet, many of us who claim the name of Christ fail day after day to present his grace, not because "we planned to fail, but because we failed to plan". We have never thought through what we really believe about our Savior; we have never prepared our testimony; we have never developed good questions; and finally, we have never determined in our hearts to actively look for opportunities to witness for our Lord during each business day. From this day fourth may we encourage one another to be skilled and courageous warriors for Christ.

\*\*\*Many thanks to the dozen or so brothers who took the time to help me assemble a tool to assist a number of young, zealous followers of Christ.