

# Tactics in Defending Your Faith – Week 10

## Men's Monday Night Football Fellowship (November 17, 2008)

### Verse for the Study: 1 Peter 3:14-16

"But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened. But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."

### When our faith is being attacked that there is "No Absolute Truth" ...

- Columbo tactic #1 –  
    **"What do you mean by that?"**  
    (clarifies WHAT they think)
- Columbo tactic #2 –  
    **"How did you come to that conclusion?"**  
    (clarifies WHY they think it)
- Columbo tactic #2 –  
    is the BURDEN OF PROOF tactic  
    **(he who makes the claim bears the burden of proof)**
- If you have not made a claim,  
    **you are not on the hook for proving anything.**  
    (avoid flaming bags of pooh!)
- Narrate the discussion – CONVERSATIONAL AIKIDO  
    **(What just happened here?)**
- If you get stuck....powerful statement  
    **(Let me think about it)**
- Use the Simple Questions –  
    **"Why" or "Why Not?"**
- Go Negative  
    **"Make them Woo your opinion from you"**
- Ask "Is it Over?"  
    **"When the conversation appears over – ask them this question"**

### Definitions from Webster's:

**Absolute:** free from imperfection; perfect. Unquestionable.

**Truth:** the state of being the case. in accord with fact or reality.

### When challenged on the existence of Absolute Truth:

#### 1) Point out simple, absolute truths in everyday life;

- \*  $2 + 2 = 4$  It never equals anything else. It is absolute
- \* There is only one president of the US.
- \* Ice is colder than fire.

Conclude; the existence of absolute truths defeats the argument.

2) The statement "There is no absolute truth.". if true, would be an absolute truth itself....defeating its own premise. This is called a self-defeating statement.

#### 3) In order to prove the claim that no absolute truth exists, one would have to have mastery of all knowledge in the universe.

- \* One would have to have to be absolutely knowledgeable.
- \* Any conclusion from one who is absolutely knowledgeable would be an absolute truth

#### 4) If two points of view oppose on a fact based issue, then either one is right and the other is wrong, or both are wrong.

- \* Use this logic to raise the possibility of your opponent being wrong.
- \* If there is a wrong position on an issue, then there can be a right position.

# **“Get in the Game” – the “Double-Dog Dare” by Pastor Chris Sutton** **Men’s Monday Night Football Fellowship 2008 Week 10 Homework**

## **Review the “Take-Away” Points**

### **New Tactic/Skill: Is It Over?**

When the conversation has ended up badly and you feel you can’t continue....

#### **Ask them, “Is it Over?”**

- Acknowledges that you are done with that topic.
- Sets you up to start again at some point.
- It comes so unexpected that it lightens the mood of the discussion.
- It gives them a sense of control while in fact you are in control.
- If they say, “yes its over”, then “Go Negative” to turn it positive.

### **When Defending against “There is No Absolute Truth”...**

- **Point out simple, absolute truths in everyday life;**
- **A Self-Defeating Statement**
- **In order to prove the claim that no absolute truth exists, one would have to have mastery of all knowledge in the universe.**
- **If two points of view oppose on a fact based issue, then either one is right and the other is wrong, or both are wrong.**

## **“Study the Playbook”**

**REVIEW and NAIL DOWN the VERSE FOR OUR STUDY:** Memorize 1 Peter 3:14-16

“But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened. But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

**WEEK 2 Verse (1 Cor. 14:11)   WEEK 3 Verse (Proverbs 30:5,6)   WEEK 4 Verse (Proverbs 15:1)**  
**WEEK 5 Verse (Isaiah 5:20,21)**

**WEEKS 6,8,9 Verse (2 Timothy 2:23-26) – NOTE: Week 7 Cancelled – Put it all together...**

“Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.”

## **Consider and Apply the “Give-Away” – Actually Play the Game**

- Strive to employ all your Columbo tactics in conversations.
- Review what you have learned on defending ABSOLUTE TRUTH!
- Prepare for next weeks study on the Existence of God – Proving who he is!
- Work on your memory verses

Check out this website for help on Proving the validity of the Bible and defending Christianity:

[http://www.clarifyingchristianity.com/b\\_proof.shtml](http://www.clarifyingchristianity.com/b_proof.shtml)