

**Tactics in Defending Your Faith**  
**Men's Monday Night Football Fellowship (October 6, 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."

**Week 4 Verse: Proverbs 15:1**

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

<b>List 1 (Last Weeks List)</b>	<b>List 2 (This Weeks List)</b>	<b>List 3 (This Weeks List)</b>
Why would a just God allow pain and suffering and evil in this world?	The Bible is a story book.	Religion is just a set of rules and Christianity is no different
How Can God be 3 people?	The Bible is full of contradictions and errors	Good works get you to heaven
Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?	We have other books that are equally true	As long as you do more good than bad you go to heaven (like a scale)
If God is a loving God why doesn't everyone go to Heaven?	How can the Bible be true since it was written so long ago by so many authors?	Aren't there many paths to heaven as long as you're sincere in what you believe?
God doesn't exist because the world is full of hate and not love.	I just don't believe the Bible	Do you really believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven?
Belief in God is unscientific	Do you believe in a literal Bible?	Prove to me that Jesus rose from the dead!
How do you know Jesus is God and not just a prophet or a good man?	The Bible is just for illustrations; figurative and not literal.	Prove Jesus is real; Prove God is real
How did God get all life onto the ark?	Where did the Bible come from anyway?	There is more than one way to God
Do you really believe that it only took God 6 days to create the world?	Do you believe the story of Jonah?	I already go to church
Why didn't God create us to love Him?	The Bible doesn't apply today	I was saved when I was born because my parents are Christians

**Drill 1 Instructions - (5 Minutes ... until time is called):**

- Pair up
- Skeptic read a claim from any of the lists
- Christian employ tactic #1
- Skeptic read another claim, or reply sensibly
- Christian employ tactic #1
- Skeptic make another claim or reply sensibly
- Christian employ tactic #2, then stop.
- Do this THREE TIMES, switch and repeat
- Take about 5 minutes

**Drill 2 Instructions – ALL LISTS(until time is called):**

- Employ Columbo tactics #1 & #2
- Practice Narrating the conversation

**Drill 3 Instructions – ALL LISTS(until time is called):**

- Skeptic makes a statement
- Christian use tactic #1
- Skeptic makes a statement
- Christian uses tactic #2
- Skeptic demonstrates high emotion
- Christian narrates the discussion
- Do this five times each and reverse roles
- 10 Minutes

**DRILL GOALS:** As many repetitions as possible | in a genuine way | We'll debrief as a group when time is called.

# **“Get in the Game” – the “Double-Dog Dare” by Pastor Chris Sutton**

## **Men’s Monday Night Football Fellowship 2008 Week 4 Homework**

### **Review the “Take-Away” Points**

1. Use your opponent's momentum to your advantage
2. Shift from argument mode to FACT FINDING mode
3. Slow the conversation down
4. **Tactic: Narrate the conversation**
  - to keep you from having to answer right away
  - to keep you in control and the responsibility for their claims on them
  - to keep you in the driver’s seat instead of being driven
  - to give you time to collect your thoughts
5. Don't feel obligated to handle an unfamiliar issue on-the-spot.
6. Don’t make a claim (sow your seed) until the soil has been prepared.
7. Use the Powerful statement: **LET ME THINK ABOUT IT**
8. **Don’t stomp on their flaming bag of pooh!**

### **“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)**

**REVIEW and NAIL DOWN the VERSE FOR Week 3:** Proverbs 30:5,6

“If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me.”

**VERSE FOR Week 4:** Proverbs 15:1

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

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

“Education without application quickly becomes extinct.” – Brent Briggs...or “Unknown”

- Strive to employ your two Columbo tactics in conversations.
- If you find yourself in an emotionally charged situation, try narrating the conversation
- Look through our three lists of objections to Christianity and come up with three questions you would most like help in answering. We'll collect this in our next meeting and begin working on the follow on study which will address them.