

Evangelism Class #13 Outline - The Power of Questions part 3

9 Benefits of Questions: 1) We model the master 2) Show genuine interest 3) Help us talk with, not at 4) Create natural openings for spiritual discussion 5) Force people to examine their beliefs 6) Help clarify people's beliefs 7) Expose inconsistencies in people's beliefs 8) Expose barriers to belief 9) Invites their questions in return

7. Expose Inconsistencies in People's Beliefs

- **Matthew 22:29-33** - Inconsistent to believe in God, but not a resurrection.
 - **Benefits:** 1) Leads them toward self-discovery. Don't even have to say, "You're wrong."
2) Shows us where to focus the conversation.
 - **A) Belief inconsistent with Heart Longing**
 - **Examples:** Don't believe in Hell, yet long for justice. Morality is relative, yet longing for a peaceful society. There is no God, but looking for meaning and purpose. Don't believe Jesus died for sins, yet long to go to Heaven. Don't need to go to church, yet yearn for belonging. Belief in evolution, yet hoping for something beyond this life.
 - **Luke 3:15** - Longed for a Messiah, yet rejected Him when He came.
 - **B) Belief Inconsistent with Behavior**
 - **Luke 6:46** - "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
 - **Examples:** Muslim, but doesn't practice 5 pillars. Christian, but lives like the world. Believe in evolution, yet pray during tough times. Truth is relative, yet mad when lied to.
 - **C) Belief Inconsistent with Belief**
 - **Matthew 22 again** - Can't believe in God AND in no resurrection. Those contradict.
 - **Examples:** Christians who believe other religions lead to Heaven, or who think they can earn Heaven with good works. Christians who believe there is no hell. Believe in evolution, but also believe in an afterlife.
 - **D) Belief Inconsistent with Basic Logic**
 - **Matthew 23:16-18** - Magical vow loopholes are illogical.
 - **Examples:** No such thing as truth. (Is that true?). We can't know anything about God. (How do you know that?). We have to be skeptical of everything. (Even of skepticism?). All religions lead to the same place. (Even if they contradict?). Everyone should determine their own morals. (Do you really want to live like that?)
- **Good questions to ask:** "How come you believe x but don't practice it?" "How can you believe x, but also believe y?" "I understand you believe x, but I don't see how that's consistent with what you really long for in your heart."
 - **Note:** "How come?" is less threatening than "Why?"

8. Exposes Barriers to Belief

- **3 Barriers:**
 - **A) The mind (intellectual)**
 - **Romans 10:1-2** - Some barriers are intellectual, knowledge-based.
 - **B) The heart (emotional)**
 - **Matthew 27:46** - Some barriers are caused by hurt and betrayal.
 - **C) The will (volitional)**
 - **Matthew 23:37; Luke 16:31**
 - **Tricky:** People hide their will barriers behind intellectual and emotional barriers.
 - **Questions to uncover real barrier:** "What would you say is the biggest barrier to you becoming a Christian?" "If you could know the truth about God, would you want to know it?" "What kind of evidence for God are you looking for?" "If I could give you satisfactory answers to all of your questions about Christianity, would you be willing to follow God?"