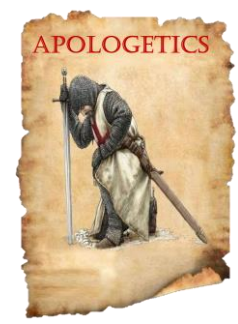


# APOLOGETICS



The  
Mind's  
Journey  
to  
Heaven





# Isn't Christianity Just a Bunch of Do's and Don'ts



Isn't Christianity **Just** a Bunch of **Do's and Don'ts** ?



The Primary Thing  
Or  
Foundational Thing



Focus is on Human Behavior  
Or  
Ought & Ought Nots

It seems apparent they have never heard the **WHOLE** Gospel.

# What are they missing?

- God .... Relationship ... Grace ... Faith ... Fruit of a New Heart !
- Just about everything important.
- IF CHRISTIANITY WAS A GOLF BALL, THEY WOULD BE SWINGING AND TOTALLY MISSING THE BALL!



A close-up photograph of a white golf ball resting on a white tee. The background is a blurred green golf course. The text "THE GOSPEL Of JESUS CHRIST" is printed in black on the right side of the ball.

THE GOSPEL  
Of  
JESUS CHRIST

**This Person Has Just Tee'd Up A Great Opportunity To Share the True Gospel.  
Ask for Permission to Swing and Then Swing Away!  
You Have Been to GCBC Gospel Driving Range Multiple Times!**



# Before you swing...Advice from the Pros



- **Make sure no one is on the fairway in front of you.**
  - Know your audience. You aren't trying to harm someone...but help.
- **Get your stance relative to the ball correct.**
  - What is your relationship with the Gospel? Do you know it? Do you have a new heart?
- **Make sure you aim the right direction.**
  - You are seeking reconciliation between this person and the God you love.
  - You seek Glory for God...Joy and Praise in the persons heart.
  - Restored relationships is where you want to go.
- **Keep your eye on the ball.**
  - Delivering the Gospel is what you must stay focused on.
  - It is the power of God unto salvation!
  - Don't get distracted.



# Before you swing...Advice from the Pros



- **Follow what you have practiced.**
  - Preparation is important.
  - Go to the driving range...i.e. review scripture, sermons, CE Hour lessons, Ask questions.
- **Keep your head down while swinging.**
  - Pray, Pray, Pray. The Holy Spirit is already pursuing this person or you wouldn't have this opportunity.
  - Let Him lead and trust his power.
- **Follow through.**
  - Invite them to church, a bible study or further coffee where you can go deeper.



# After you hit the ball off the tee... Which iron should you choose?



- Apparently they grew up in a works based form of Christianity and were completely in a panic about their sins.
- They never “knew” Christ but only knew about Him.
- In their brokenness they start to cry.

What do you do?

- Take them to the Lord in Prayer.
- Give them the promises of God to cling to.
  - 1 John 1:9 <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
  - Acts 2:21 <sup>21</sup> ‘AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.’
  - Romans 10:10 <sup>10</sup> for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.
  - John 17:3 <sup>3</sup> This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
- Invite them to GCBC to worship with you.





# After you hit the ball off the tee... Which iron should you choose?



- Maybe they have always been a rebel looking for freedom.
- Rules just don't seem like the right way. Too Stifling
- Remember our lesson where we defined freedom...
  - Desire for something
  - Ability to do or have something
  - Opportunity to do or have something
  - No Negative consequences of doing or having it
  - Able to do it for eternity
- Need to show them their pursuit of running away from Dos and Don't's has only enslaved them as opposed to set them free.
  - SEE CE HOUR LESSON: IS IT FAIR TO CONDEMN SOMEONE TO HELL? ...SLIDES 14-16
- They need to know that judgment is real.
  - Hebrews 9:27...it is appointed unto man once to die and then to judgment.





# After you hit the ball off the tee... INTO THE SAND Which iron should you choose?



- Maybe they have committed themselves to an intellectual atheism.
- They see Christianity as just a way to control the masses...i.e. fairy tales to keep order.
- Many people have viewed Christianity this way and used it as a tool to control...no arguing against this historical fact.
- You will need to take them back to a discussion about the reality of God...the trustworthiness of the Bible.
- Consider ...
  - CE Hour Lesson: How do we know God exists?
  - CE Hour Lesson: Hasn't science proven Christianity false?
  - CE Hour Lesson: Can we trust the Bible?
- With this person, it is imperative that the conversation move from **intellectual to personal**. The person needs to grapple with the reality of their sin...from God's perspective.



# After you hit the ball off the tee... Which iron should you choose?

INTO THE WATER



- They come from a man centered works perspective...but secular.
- They will say things like...
  - I am basically good...I love my spouse...I haven't killed anyone...I work hard...pay my taxes and stay out of trouble.
- You need to focus on belief in the God of the Bible...and seek conviction over our sin against Him.
- Some places to begin...
  - On what basis can you define Good and Evil?
  - If there is a God then He defines good. You need to show them how they sin against God first and foremost.
  - Show them how the bar is too high...how they lusted, held anger, slandered others in their mind, failed to love God...etc.
  - Review CE Hour Lesson: Aren't all people basically good anyway?





# After you hit the ball off the tee... Which iron should you choose?

## PLUGGED IN FAIRWAY



- They come from a man centered works perspective...but Religious.
- They will say things like...
  - What really matters is that I go to church, tithe and do good to others.
- You must show them dos and don'ts condemn...only a relationship by Grace through Faith in Christ frees us!
- Ask...
  - Do you realize you can do many good works and be considered lawless because you aren't in a "knowing" relationship with Jesus? Matthew 7:22-23
  - You do all of these things but do you love God, his word, his church and sharing your faith?  
Walk them through the parable of the two sons Luke 15:11-32
- Use the analogies we have discussed.

Truly Desire God, The Bible, His People, The Lost  
VS  
Just Shoving Religion in Your Mouth and Faking It!





# So you are now on the green...



- Maybe the person you are sharing with is a believer but they are struggling to mature in their faith.
  - They either think do's and don'ts are of no value...i.e. we are free in Christ ...to sin!
  - Or
  - They think dos and don'ts are the primary emphasis for believers...i.e. legalistic approach to sanctification.
- On the One Hand...Obedience does matter. Jesus said...
  - "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15
- On the Other Hand...The law cannot produce righteousness.
  - "I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness *comes* through the Law, then Christ died needlessly." Galatians 2:21
- So how do we get the ball in the cup?
  - "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5
- Abiding is relationship language.
- We need to look at Christianity more as a relationship than a game of rules.

# Board Game or Relationships

Board Game World View



Relationships World View



Forever in Love





# If the Gospel is more like relationships and not a game, why did I use Golf as an analogy?



# Where are we going to go?

- Major Secular Questions Asked of Christians

- How do we know God exists?
- Doesn't science prove Christianity is false? Can any rational person believe in the Christian Faith?
  - Science is the only discipline which is objective and can therefore be trusted.
  - Evolution has proven that we were not created.
- Can you trust the Bible as accurate?
- How can a good God exist if He allows suffering and evil?
- Is it fair for God to condemn someone to hell? What about those who have never heard the Gospel?
- Aren't all people basically good?
- Isn't Christianity arrogant to say it is the only way to heaven? Aren't all religions just different ways to the same God?
- Isn't Christianity just a bunch of Do's and Don'ts?
- Isn't the institutional Christian Church just about getting your money? Do you really have to go to church to be a Christian?
- Optional – Crowd generated questions...open Q&A

- Major World Religion's Arguments against true Christian Faith

- Islamic Arguments
- Roman Catholic Arguments
- Hinduism Arguments
- Mormonism Arguments
- Buddhism Arguments