

Sessions 6, 7, and 8 Summary

I. Steamroller.

A. Characterized by:

1. Constant interruptions.
2. Asking different questions to change the topic.
3. Strong opinions and personalities.
4. Overwhelm with lots of attitude and noise.
5. Not interested in an answer, but in “winning” through intimidation.

B. How to stop.

1. Negotiate an agreement (first you talk, then I talk, and so on).
2. Shame them (you don't seem to want to stick to the agreement.)
3. Leave (apparently you are not really interested in an answer to your questions).

II. Mini tactics.

A. Sticks and stones.

1. Name calling.
2. Ask for a definition (what do you mean by that?).
3. Why do you think it's helpful to attack me personally instead of showing me where my idea is wrong?

B. Move toward the objection.

1. Embrace the objection.
2. Undermine its relevance.
3. Examples.
 - a. Imperfect design.
 - b. I believe in one less god than you do.
 - c. The church is filled with hypocrites.
 - d. Religion is a crutch.

C. Watch your language.

1. Church language is no longer relevant to many in our culture.
2. Change the language but not the force.
 - a. Sin = rebellion against a sovereign and holy God.
 - b. Salvation = rescued by the sovereign we've rebelled against.
 - c. Old Testament = the ancient prophets.
 - d. Disciples = the early followers of Jesus.

D. The power of “So.”

1. Many arguments from sceptics are merely trash talk.
 - a. Sound clever.
 - b. Have nothing to do with the argument.
2. Tactic.
 - a. Agree with the claim if you can.
 - b. “So?”
3. Examples.
 - a. Christians are stupid.
 - b. Christians are hypocrites.
 - c. You’re a Christian because you were raised in America. If you were raised in Iraq, you’d be a Muslim.
 - 1) Probably. So?
 - 2) BTW, if you were raised in Iraq, you wouldn’t be an atheist.

E. What a friend we have in Jesus!

1. Jesus has credibility even among those who are not his followers.
2. Enlist Jesus on your side. (That’s interesting. But Jesus said...)
3. Examples.
 - a. Christians are so narrow-minded, saying Christianity is the only way to God.
 - b. Christians are so intolerant (same as above).
 - c. Jesus said that, not me. Was he mistaken?
 - d. Example on page 148.

III. Inside out.

- A. A frame of mind, understanding what it means to be a human in God’s world.
- B. What is on the inside comes out in unguarded moments.
 1. Richard Dawkins, page 132.
 2. Francis Schaeffer: What does it mean to be human?
 - a. Man is different from non-man.
 - b. “You have crowned him with glory and honor” (Ps. 8:5).
 3. Quotes from Bill Nye and Carl Sagan, page 133.
- C. At the core of our being lies a mark, the imprint of God *in* us, not *on* us.
 1. Because we all – believer and non-believer – live in God’s world, there is something deep within us that we cannot deny, and which eventually shows itself.
 2. All we need to do is listen.

- D. We are broken people in a broken world – and we know it.
 - 1. It wasn't always that way – there is a remnant of former beauty.
 - 2. Everyone longs for justice – the inside coming out.
 - 3. Everyone needs mercy – the search party has been sent out and the Rescuer has arrived.
 - 4. We all understand guilt.
 - a. The answer is not denial.
 - b. The answer is forgiveness.
- E. Come unto me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Mt. 11:28).