

With no apology

**Brief :-***The culture we live in is now post Christian ,people generally have little understanding of the Christian world view let alone their own world view . **How can we live ours and share ours in such a way that it communicates wisely and accurately .If we cannot find the way to do this we are in some trouble.***

● **Understand what our mission is .**

The game of Risk - your mission ....

The mission defined by Scripture and expressed by Jesus is to go into the whole world and make disciples Matthew 28.18-20

**What does it mean to make disciples ? Help others and Ground others [depth]**

### **THE SLOUGH OF DESPOND**

*Now I saw in my dream that, just as they had ended this talk, they drew near to a very miry slough that was in the midst of the plain; and they being heedless, did both fall suddenly into the bog. The name of the slough was "Despond." Here, therefore, they wallowed for a time, being grievously bedaubed with the dirt; and CHRISTIAN, because of the burden that was on his back, began to sink in the mire.*

**Pli.** *Then said PLIABLE, "Ah! neighbour CHRISTIAN, where are you now?"*

**Chr.** *"Truly," said CHRISTIAN, "I do not know."*

**Pli.** *At that PLIABLE began to be offended, and angrily said to his fellow, "Is this the happiness you have told me of all this while? If we have such ill speed at our first setting out, what may we expect 'twixt this and our journey's end? If I get out again with my life, you shall possess the brave country alone." And with that he gave a desperate struggle or two, and got out of the mire on that side of the slough which was next to his own house: so away he went, and CHRISTIAN saw him no more.*

*Wherefore CHRISTIAN was left to tumble in the Slough of Despond alone; but still he endeavoured to struggle to that side of the slough that was farthest from his own house, and next to the wicket gate: which he did, but could not get out, because of the burden that was upon his back. But I beheld, in my dream, that a man came to him whose name was HELP, and asked him what he did there?*

**Chr.** *"Sir," said CHRISTIAN, "I was bidden to go this way by a man called EVANGELIST, who directed me also to yonder gate, that I might escape the wrath to come; and as I was going thither, I fell in here."*

**Help.** *But why did you not look for the steps?*

**Chr.** *Fear followed me so hard, that I fled the next way and fell in.*

**Help.** *Then said he, "Give me thy hand." So he gave him his hand, and he drew him out; and set him upon some ground, and bade him go on his way*

● **Understand what you believe .** Need to narrow this down somewhat . What you believe about what ?

World view questions help give focus and accessibility to non believers .

Creation. Fall redemption Glory

This is the way you will make sense of the world around you ,

It will ground everything you believe in the doctrine of God as the one who reveals himself to us and has made us in his image able to know Him

With no apology

It will explain what you think the purpose of everything is and your place in it .  
it will tell who you worship and why ,  
it will help you understand the origin and place of suffering,  
it will give context for the person of Lord Jesus  
It will justify hope .

● **Understand the person before you** and the point of contact .

- What their world view is ? And there is no other way but to do some work in trying to understand the main worldview around us ... a questionnaire can help if their are open
- What you both have in common ? Scripture tells us a great deal about human beings and what makes them the way they are and why things have gone wrong . Now each person will have their own individual story of this, and we may find some points of contact  
How are you to discover this ?
- Meet in the key moments of life , life's pain ..
- Questions that, like a key ; open up the heart as Jesus himself did . John 4
- Taking them seriously , seeing them with grace and compassion . Having the patience and love to go the distance .

● **Understand something about Epistimology[how we come to know ]**

**By most accounts, knowledge can be acquired in many different ways and from many sources, including but not limited to perception, reason, memory, testimony, scientific inquiry, education, and practice.**

Calvin speaks of the **two ways that God make himself know to people** [1]'placed eternity in our hearts'- **the inbuilt awareness of God** [even if they are unwilling to acknowledge it ]

And

[2] **The experience of life** lived in his creation

Romans 1:18-20 Understand the Meaning of time .

But we require scripture and Jesus to fully reveal the truth about God .It is a fair point of debate about whether we can know anything about God if we do not presuppose God to exist .

This means that we need to depend on prayer , on the Holy Spirit to guide us and to help them .

**Points of contact**

Alastair Mc Grath<sup>1</sup>

\* A sense of unsatisfied longing

“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this **world** can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were **made for another world**. CS Lewis

\* The capacity of reason .. “Come let us reason together” we can

Anything is possible . Peter Partington as example of time and movement form zero to faith and discipleship.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bridge building chapter 2 IVP 1992

With no apology

- \* The Ordering of the World [anthropic principle ]
- \* Human Morality
- \* Existential anxiety and alienation fear insecurity
- \* Frailty mortality

● **Understand the power of tone as much as volume.** People seldom alter Tone , just volume now days .gentleness and grace 1Peter love embodied .Does this person know we really care , empathy, and patience, holy acceptance {example of Tesco Metro ... and the pastry falling under the shelf on the floor .. my encounter with the staff member who was gracious and generous and he Effect on me .. draws me back }

This is what we mean when we say how do 'LIVE' our world view so that it communicates wisely and accurately'

- This will be observed most clearly when our lives are in difficult places ... eg Job. He only loves you because you bless him .. but take away all  
9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." Job 1
- This will also be observed most when we encounter others in difficult places . How do we respond to the needs of others ... poverty , pain , and all the trials of life .

Where duty calls, or danger,  
Be never wanting there.

Stand up stand up for Jesus . In the sandpit with (Tom) . And many other 'pits' since

Example

● **Understand the Step of Faith**

Conscious that this is a process and all the above stands true but we do want to help people come to this place . "receive Christ into our hearts " what is this !!!

Just what are we asking ?

"faith is about believing certain things are true .. assent I believe as eg the creed  
But Christian faith involves more than assent .

**Pisteuo eis ... actions follow I take you , I commit myself to who you say you are what you say of me and what you says you have done for me . I believe the gospel story .not just that it is true , but that I can step [act upon it ] into it relationally with Jesus It involves a Receiving, embracing**

**I enter into these promises repenting and believing .. all His becomes ours .**

**Faith is like the open hands that receive all the winnings of Jesus for us , it is like the channel by which all the benefits of the Lord Jesus flow to us**

For a full knowledge of everything ?