

# RESPONDING TO “CONFUSED CHRIS”

## *A Strategy*

### 1. Remember the Golden Rule (Matt 7:12)

### 2. Be Quick to Listen and Slow to Speak (James 1:19)

### 3. Perform Triage (Evaluate the Situation)

#### a. P\_\_\_\_\_ Triage

- i. Assess the \_\_\_\_\_ (new participant, fragile, proud, agreeable, disruptive)
- ii. Assess the \_\_\_\_\_ (to what extent will they be influenced/persuaded by what has been said?)
- iii. Assess \_\_\_\_\_ (are you comfortable *and* competent to address the topic?)

#### b. T\_\_\_\_\_ Triage

- i. Topics \_\_\_\_\_ to Christian faith or \_\_\_\_\_ addressed in Scripture
- ii. Topics about which believers may \_\_\_\_\_, possibly leading to necessary boundaries
- iii. Topics about which believers may disagree \_\_\_\_\_ affecting fellowship

#### c. R\_\_\_\_\_ Triage (see other side)

- i. \_\_\_\_\_ to see if someone else will respond
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_ inaccurate information
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_ for input from others
- iv. Ask \_\_\_\_\_ questions
- v. \_\_\_\_\_ to outside of class
- vi. Say \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. A Few Reminders

- a. Do not demean the individual
- b. Evaluate both correct and incorrect responses; don't limit follow-up questions and outside input only to wrong statements
- c. Avoid the “Yes, but ...” especially with incorrect responses
- d. Avoid pithy praises

## Some Sample Responses

### **Corrective Statements**

- “Thank you for sharing your thoughts. If you were to approach the concept from a slightly different angle you might see that ...”
- “I’m glad you brought up that idea. It reminds me that one of our concerns here is actually ...”
- “With a bit more development, we could turn that idea around to the point that ...”
- “You’re generally right regarding X and that’s great, but wrong regarding Y. Now we need to correct Y so we can get everything correct.”

### **Questions to Elicit Other Responses**

- “John, do you agree with answer Chris just gave?”
- “Thanks. Is there someone who wants to respond to the question or comment on the response we’ve already heard?”
- “Are there any other ideas?”
- “We might need to expand on Chris’s thought. How can we make it stronger?”

### **Follow-Up Questions**

- “What do you mean by ...?”
- “Can you give me an example?”
- “All of your answer depends on the idea that ... Why did you base your answers in this rather than ...?”
- “What are your reasons for believing this?”
- “Can you be more specific?”
- “Let me see if I understand you. Do you mean ...?”
- “Could you explain your answer further?”
- “Can you rephrase your response?”
- “What I understood you say is ... Is that what you meant?”
- “Let me rephrase the question ... Now, what do you think?”
- “How did you arrive at that position?”