

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?”