



iv. Creating Passion for Christianity

Do we understand that there are people that do not care about the message of the gospel?

In Christianity, we will run into 2 categories of people who are very difficult to communicate the gospel to:

1. Those that have been hurt or offended by abuses by Christians or in the name of Christianity. Their problem is not ethics or philosophy; so much as it is experience.

Bridging the Gap:

[S]ecular and Christian rationalities, although distinct, overlap at points. Sin has a noetic influence in that it disrupts the continuity between secular and Christian outlooks; it does not, however, destroy their contiguity. The task of the apologist is to identify the areas of overlap in order to facilitate the transition from a secular to a Christian worldview. –*Dan Story quotes Alister McGrath in “Engaging the Closed Minded.”*

8 areas of similarity for us to draw with non-believers:

- **Fear of Death** – All men fear death
- **Social Services** – Most Social Services have come through Christianity
- **Ethics** – The dark times in the world are counted dark in light of God’s goodness
- **Science** – We all believe in science, it has nothing to do with miracles
- **Suffering and Evil** – Everyone believes pain and suffering is real, is it meaningful?
- **Sin** – We have all seen fictional good/evil battles. Why and what is the pulling towards sin
- **Aesthetics** – Let beauty and creativity be an idea that helps us discuss God’s nature.
- **Nature** – Many people believe in a God of nature. This is a great entry point for the God of creation

2. Those that just do not care. They know that they do not have all the answers, they just have not come to a point where they realize that what they believe is not enough.

- Do not cut off someone’s nose and then give them a rose. We are never debating an idea, but a person. As an obnoxious person, you will not endear someone to the gospel
- When we see TV Preachers and other Christian celebrities (Tebow, Seahawks, etc.) we cannot help but ask, “Yes, but what are they like in private? The greatest defense of Christianity is in the lives that we live. Does my life back up the gospel of Jesus Christ? Do I do the things that Christianity holds in its heart.
- Enter one of the purposes behind evil in the world. It shows us the need for a meaningful and purposeful worldview.