



## Part 6: *The Power of Questions*

### INTRODUCTION – The Medium is the Message

Arguments are more like swords than bombs. It matters little who drops a bomb. But it matters enormously who wields a sword, for a sword is an extension of the swordsman. Thus, an argument in apologetics, when actually used in dialogue, is an extension of the arguer. The arguer's tone, sincerity, care, concern, listening and respect matter as much as his or her logic – probably more.  
~ Peter Kreeft, *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*

### DINE IN – Jesus and Columbo

**Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. <sup>24</sup> And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. <sup>25</sup> Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.  
~ 2 Timothy 2:23-25 (TNIV)**

### Matthew 10:16 – Shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves

Jesus asking questions...

**Matthew 9:4; 16:13-16; 17:25; 18:12; 21:23-32; 22:20, 41-46; Luke 7:40-44; 10:25-37; 14:1-6; John 18:22-23**

### TAKE OUT – Asking Against Instinct

*Three Kinds of Questions...*

Level 1: Questions that help you learn about your partner's beliefs. You are asking for clarification of their beliefs.  
e.g., What do you mean by that? (What?)

Level 2: Questions that help your partner discover/express their reasons. You are asking for reasons for their beliefs.  
e.g., How did you come to that conclusion? (Why?)

Level 3: Questions that help you communicate your own beliefs. You are asking for their cooperation in examining your beliefs.  
e.g., Have you ever considered...? Do you think it might be possible that...? Can you help me figure something out?...

### CONCLUSION – Worth the Work

Study / Practice / Reflect

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

#### HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

##### Warming Up...

1. Do you find it easier in a conversation to ask questions or make statements? How might your conversational preferences be helpful or not helpful in your evangelistic conversations?
2. Read Peter Kreeft's quote in the introduction and talk about its implications.

##### Look to the Book...

3. Look up each of the references to Jesus asking questions and read the verses in context. For each reference talk about a) what Jesus accomplished through questions or why he used questions, b) how it could have been easier to use statements rather than questions, c) what the results were.

##### So What?...

4. ROLE PLAY... Practice responding to the following challenges with questions rather than assertions. See how far you can get in a conversation with a sceptic using questions only. A) It's not rational to believe in God. There is no proof. B) Evolution explains everything, so we have no need for God. C) All religions are basically the same. It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you believe something. D) God is the life force that flows through everything. We are all part of it. E) Jesus never even existed. F) Jesus was influenced by Buddhist and Hindu teaching. G) When putting the Bible together the Catholic Church edited a lot of it out. H) Truth is different for different people. No one should try to tell someone else what to believe. I) I have my own beliefs. I'm a spiritual person. J) Make more up...

**The Meeting House | Sunday, July 4 / 11, 2010 | Bruxy Cavey**

Notes are available online at [themeetinghouse.ca/teaching](http://themeetinghouse.ca/teaching)