

# GoLife100 | Lesson 26

## Practical Tools for Addressing Other Worldviews



BY DUDLEY HALL



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**THIS LESSON FOCUSES ON** how we can best discuss our beliefs with people who hold a different worldview. It will focus on how to apply specific biblical principles to the everyday situation we face.

**THIS LESSON IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE** we must be instructed by Scripture to be equipped to share our faith with others. We must be trained how to address the prevailing worldviews of our time with the truth of the Gospel in a manner that is both relevant and uncompromising.

### ***CASE STUDY:***

*After several weeks of spending time and building relationship with an unbeliever, he remarks, "I am so glad you are not like those other Christians who say that just because people don't believe what you do, they are going to hell." You have not talked with him about this and are fairly sure that his comment is a projection concerning the way you have treated him.*

### ***CASE STUDY REFLECTIONS:***

*What would you say in response to his comment? What would your goal be for this conversation?*

### **MAKE YOUR CASE:**

Did you explain why it is important what people believe?

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I. **1 Peter 3:15:** *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;*

II. **All people have a worldview through which they interpret their world:**

- A. Some are conscious of it.
- B. Some are not conscious of it.
- C. The example of Paul on Malta.

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### *Define a Term:*

**REVELATION** *The act of disclosing or discovering to others what was before unknown to them; appropriately, the disclosure or communication of truth to men by God himself, or by his authorized agents, the prophets and apostles. That which is revealed; appropriately, the sacred truths which God has communicated to man for his instruction and direction. (Webster's 1828)*

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III. **Inadequate worldviews produce unfulfilled lives:**

- A. The example of a person with a modernist worldview.
- B. Components of a good worldview:
  - 1. Consistent with itself.
  - 2. Addresses all the data.
  - 3. Satisfies the deepest longings of the heart:
    - a. To be loved unconditionally.
    - b. To make an impact beyond the temporal.
    - c. To belong to others like me.
    - d. To enjoy existence.

IV. **One's worldview is the result of a response to the revelation of God:**

- A. Everyone on the earth has had some measure of revelation of God ([Romans 1:18-24](#)).
- B. Why people look for substitute gods.

**It's not the  
last word  
that matters,  
it's the right  
word.**

V. **Proverbs 26:4-5: Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Or you will also be like him. Answer a fool as his folly deserves, that he not be wise in his own eyes.**

- A. [Verse 4](#): Don't enter the discussion using their presuppositions as the foundation for debate:
  - 1. Example of reason.
  - 2. Example of comfort.
  - 3. Example of tolerance.
- B. [Verse 5](#): We should confront people with the truth when given the opportunity.

VI. **Example of Paul at Mars Hill ([Acts 17:22-34](#)):**

- A. We are in a place of privilege in being able to present the truth as instruments of mercy.
- B. Paul's presentation addresses:
  - 1. The nature of God.
  - 2. The nature of truth.
  - 3. The nature of man.
  - 4. The nature of history.
  - 5. The question of suffering.
  - 6. The question of death.

**Many times, the best way to make a presentation is to address the longings of the heart rather than the questions of the head.**

VII. **Suggestions for presenting your worldview:**

- A. Don't try to make your worldview fit their paradigm.
- B. Tell all the truth you know and don't speculate.
  - 1. Let them know you are also learning.
  - 2. Let them know that you have chosen to respond to mystery with worship.
- C. Depend on divine support ([Isaiah 55:8-11](#)).
- D. You don't have to win the argument to win the person.

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***Memory Verse:***

*"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"*

*—[1 Peter 3:15](#)*

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### *Homework:*

1. What should your goal be when sharing the Gospel or confronting another person's worldview?
2. In your own words, explain what Proverbs 26:4-5 says.
3. What is your biggest fear when given the opportunity to share your beliefs with someone? What are you going to do to overcome that fear?
4. To be able to share your beliefs more effectively, what specific idea would you like further training in?

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### *Listening Test:*

1. Everyone has a worldview.
  - a. True
  - b. False
2. If you lose a worldview argument, you have let God down.
  - a. True
  - b. False
3. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit that brings people to truth.
  - a. fruit
  - b. conviction
  - c. reproach
4. If God doesn't \_\_\_\_\_, they won't \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. give it / get it
  - b. push people / give in
  - c. shout / hear