Elenctic Theology: Demonology & the Occult

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*Evangelism & Spiritual Warfare*

## Evangelism strategy & tactics

### Reasons Why People Join Cults & Occultic Groups

#### Most Join Because of Universal Personal Needs.

##### Need to be Loved

##### Need to be Accepted

##### Need to be Part of Something Important

##### Need to have Peace with God

##### Need for Security

#### Cradle or Convert?

### General Principles

#### Love the person with the love of Christ

#### Let your life be an example of the difference Christ can make.

#### Share information with the cultist concerning the group’s teachings.

#### Show the person that his or her emotional and spiritual needs can only be truly and permanently met by Jesus Christ.

#### Pray for the person (II Cor. 4:3-4; II Tim. 2:25).

#### Know the Word of God.

### General Evangelistic Techniques & Tactics

#### ***Overview of General Tactics***

##### Occult & Cult Evangelism Employs Several Disciplines.

###### Biblical Studies

###### Polemical & Elenchtical Theology

###### Heresiology

###### Christian Evidences

###### Logic

###### Rhetoric

##### There are at least two necessary elements to Christian Apologetics:

###### The first is to give substantial responses to specific issues and topics raised by critics.

###### The second is tactics and mode of operation of your apologetic. Which techniques, styles, strategies, methods, and communicative devices do you employ?

#### ***Specific Methods for Dialogue***

##### **Burden of Proof: Refute v. Rebut**

###### To Refute means you have proved it to be false.

###### To Rebut means her view could be true, but you have dismantled her argument for it.

###### Don't accept the burden of proof or persuasion unnecessarily.

##### **Cross-Examining A Hostile Witness**

###### Ask leading questions.

How do you know?

Why should I believe your statement?

###### Make them justify their assertions (Burden of Proof)

##### **Relevance**

###### Red Herring-Distracts from main argument

###### Christians killed innocent people during the Crusades.

##### ***Ad hoc* Responses.**

###### Reasoning v. Facts

###### Difference between opinion and argument

##### **Self Referential Absurdities**

###### Self-refuting

###### All English sentences are less than three words long. (obvious)

###### Christians should not cram their morality down our throats because there are no moral truths.

##### **Presuppositional Approach**

###### Rom. 1:18-20

###### Rom. 2:14-15

##### **Objection! Assumes Facts Not In Evidence.**

###### Just the facts, Ma’m.

##### **Fallacy of Expert Witness**

###### Why should I believe him?

###### Garbage is garbage, but a history of garbage is scholarship.

##### **Godzilla v. Bambi**

###### A person asks you a million questions without taking a breath.

###### Stand your ground. Answer one at a time in order of importance.

##### **Assume the Position**

###### So you think everything is God? Let’s assume that is true. What follows from that if we grant it?

#### **Common Red Herrings**

##### **This is what it means "To me" or "for us"**

##### **There are some things we just don't understand.**

##### **It's one of those mysteries.**

##### **I really don't know about those things or no one really knows about those things.**

##### **In a sense…**

##### **It's spiritual knowledge…**

### Cult & Occult-Specific Techniques & Tactics

#### **The Role of the Holy Spirit**

##### Prayer is the key to witnessing. (2 Tim 2:25) Pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance for your witnessing. Pray that the Holy Spirit will break through the person’s spiritual blindness so that he might see the light of the gospel.

##### Take control of the evangelistic encounter. Lead into the discussion with a doctrinal prayer. An example of this type of prayer would be, “Lord. Thank you that You have saved us by your finished work on the cross and that we have that salvation as a free gift through faith. . . .” This works well because people usually concentrate on the words of a prayer and this helps the occultist to focus on essential truths that he might miss later on in your conversation.

##### Remember, nobody will interrupt a prayer!

#### **How Much Time?**

##### Many cultists and occultists run at the first sign of an informed Christian.

##### Before you begin, ask them, “How much time do you have?” They will usually commit to at least an hour. Then you are ready to begin.

#### **Be Aware of Communication Problems**

##### This is a common problem with those involved in cults and the occult. Ask them to define terms.

##### Quite often you will discover that you and the other person are using the same word, but have a completely different understanding.

##### Failing to define terms will result in a lack of communication or miscommunication.

#### **Have the Person Read the Scripture Aloud**

##### If you read a passage of Scripture to a hostile person, they are not necessarily listening to and considering the merits of the passage. They are probably thinking about how to answer you.

##### When they read the passage aloud, it is nearly impossible to think of anything else except the content of the verse.

#### **Place the Cultist or Occultist in the Role of Teacher and Ask the Difficult Questions.**

##### Many groups believe that they are the only ones qualified to teach or comment on the Scriptures or religious matters.

##### Therefore, ask the person to explain certain problems with the group’s theology or worldview.

#### **Remember that Character Counts!**

##### **Be Humble and Respectful**

###### You will probably fail in your attempt to convince others that they need to humble themselves and repent if you are arrogant and cocky.

###### Budding defenders of the faith love to sing the national anthem of Christian apologetics, “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 respect” (I Pet. 3:15). However many fail to live out this divine imperative because they relegate the last phrase to the level of suggestion.

###### It is a true saying that people do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. This is especially true for those involved in cultic and occultic groups.

##### **Renounce Spiritual Pride**

###### One of the quickest ways to “turn off” a person is to talk down to them. This is a real temptation for Christians who have prepared well for their evangelistic encounters.

###### Once some Christians have learned “all the answers,” they become proud of their newly acquired ability and look down their noses at the ignorant cultist or occultist. Converse with them; do not talk down to them. In sum, do not win the argument and lose the soul because of pride.

#### **Be Sensitive to the Needs of the Cultist & Occult Practitioner**

##### Some, more than others, must truly “count the cost” of coming to the real Jesus Christ. Generally, their entire lives revolve around their group and they have few friends apart from it.

##### Even if you have convinced one that his theology is heretical, the person is left with a dilemma. He is torn between what he knows to be true and the high probability of the loss of every meaningful relationship in his life.

##### The Christian’s humility, gentleness, respect, love, and unconditional acceptance of the person is imperative. The person needs to know that there is a place to go when his group gives him the left-foot of fellowship.

#### **Patience is a Virtue.**

##### Do not be impatient with the cultist or occultist. Remember that they are spiritually blind (II Cor. 4:3-4) and have many psychological, sociological, and intellectual barriers to overcome.

##### The Lord was patient with us before we were believers. Let us grant that same indulgence and courtesy to others.

#### **Build Bridges and Tear Down Walls**

##### Find Common Ground. There are many ethical and theological issues on which you and the cultist or occultist agree.

##### I have had many fruitful dialogues with cultists and occultists which began with discussions about crime, family values, human rights, no new taxes, and other relevant issues. When these people found out that we actually had a great deal in common, I was viewed less as an adversary and more as an ally (One even stated that he would vote for me if I ran for congress!). After this it was easy to discuss important theological issues.

#### **Get Your Facts Straight!**

##### Know What You Believe and Why You Believe It!

###### A Christian must be able to explain the essentials of the faith using Scripture. One well explained verse is better than a dozen proof texts.

##### Do not declare yourself to be an expert on their cult or occultic practice (unless you are, in fact, an expert) *Res ipsa loquitur* (The thing speaks for itself!) *Hairesis semper procedet ad pejus a malo*! (Heresy always proceeds from bad to worse)

##### Honestly answer questions posed by the cultist or occultist.

###### Feel free to say “I don’t know” and “I will look for an answer.”

###### An immediate “red flag” will be raised when you refuse to concede a valid point made by the cultist or occultist, when you overstate your case, or when you pretend to know something which you do not.

###### I have been with too many Christians who do theology *ex nihilo* when faced with a difficult question. This practice indicates a lack sincere reflection on the part of the believer and is a turn off to the one who hears these ad hoc answers. Thou shalt not do this!

#### **Focus on Essential Issues Whenever Possible**

#### **Know the Reasons Why the Person Joined the Cult or Occult Group**

##### Cults and occultic practices appeal to people for different reasons. Find out why they joined the group, and then use Scripture to address their “hot button” issues.

## The Believer’s Defenses Against Satan & Demons

### General Principles to Acknowledge

#### Realize that Satan is a limited being with no more power and than God permits him.

##### Job 1:12; 2:10

##### 1 Cor. 10:13

#### Realize that God uses Satan for His providential purposes of “sifting” and “disciplining” believers (Luke 22:31–32; 1 Cor. 5:5; 2 Cor. 12:7; cf. Job 1–2).

#### Realize that Christ has prayed for the believer’s protection from Satan (John 17:15).

##### This principle does not guarantee our victory in particular temptations and attacks from Satan, otherwise we would always overcome Satan (cf. Luke 22:31–32). We are assured that Christ has made *adequate provision* for victory over Satan, and we must appropriate that victory by obedient faith (cf. 1 John 5:4).

#### Realize that Satan is a judged and defeated foe through Christ’s work on the cross (John 12:31; Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8).

#### Realize that we can defeat Satan only through the Power of God

##### 1 John 4:4; cf. John 17:15;

##### 2 Thess. 3:3;

##### James 4:7

### General Principles of Response

#### Never speak of Satan contemptuously (Jude 8–9).

#### Take Satan seriously. (2 Cor. 2:11; 1 Pet. 5:8).

#### Pray for deliverance from Satan as “the evil one” (Matt. 6:13).

#### Stay mentally sober and alert in response to our adversary, the devil (1 Pet. 5:8).

##### Keep your thoughts obedient to Christ and controlled by the Spirit (2 Cor. 10:5; Gal. 5:23).

##### Spiritual warfare is mainly a battle for our hearts and minds (Prov. 4:23).

#### Do not give any place to Satan (Eph. 4:27).

##### We should be so Spirit–filled that we leave no room for Satan (Eph. 5:18).

##### The more the Spirit controls us, the less the devil can influence us.

#### Submit to God (James 4:7).

#### Resist the devil “firm in your faith” (1 Pet. 5:9; cf. James 4:7).

#### Put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10–18).

#### Be **aware** of Satan and his plans (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11), but do not be occupied with Satan and his works.

##### Isa. 26:3

##### Phil. 4:8

## Spiritual Warfare

### The Position of the Believer

#### The Way of the Cross (Matt. 16:24)

##### Deny self

##### Pick up your cross daily

##### Follow Jesus

#### The Victory of the Cross vv. (Matt. 16:25-27)

##### Sacrifice the Lower Life to Gain the Higher (v. 25)

##### Sacrifice fleshly pleasures for the pleasure of Kingdom Life (v. 26)

##### Sacrifice the Temporal to gain the Eternal (v. 27)

#### Dead to Sin and Alive in Christ (Rom. 6:1-11)

##### We are dead to sin. (Eph. 2:1-3)

##### We are alive in Christ (Rom. 6:1-11)

##### Our Position in Christ is in the past tense (Gal. 2:20)

### The Authority of the Believer

#### Distinguishing Power and Authority

##### Authority (*Exousia* (Grk.)) means the right to rule or exercise power. (See Mk. 1:39; 3:14, 15; Luke 9:6)

##### Power (*Dynamis* (Grk.)) is the ability to rule

##### Subjection (*Hupotasso* (Grk.)) means to order under or arrange under.

#### Christ is the Source of Authority (Matt 28:18; Eph. 1:19-23; Heb. 8:1)

#### Conferring of Authority on the Believer (Eph. 1:20; 2:1, 5)

#### Location of Authority (Eph. 1:20; 2:6; Heb. 8:1)

#### Divine Purpose (Eph. 3:9-11 cf. Daniel 7:22, 27)

#### Rebellious Holders of Authority

##### Ruler of This World (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Lk. 4:6)

##### Prince of the Power of the Air (Eph. 2:2)

##### Hierarchy of Rebellious Rule (Eph. 6:12)

#### Extent of the Christian’s Authority (Eph. 1:20-23)

#### Qualifications for Exercising Authority

###### Belief (Eph. 1:19)

###### Humility (James 4:6, 7; I Pet. 5:5-9)

###### Boldness (Eph. 3:12, 13; Acts 4:31; Rev. 21:8; Josh. 1:6, 7, 9, 18)

###### Cautions

Realize our authority comes from Christ and is not our own (Acts 19:13-17).

It is not authority over each other (Eph. 5:21)

### The Protection of the Believer (Eph. 6:10-20)

### Finding Freedom in Christ

#### Prologue

##### Procedure should begin with mature Christians who understand spiritual warfare.

##### The counselee must understand the issues and pray accordingly.

#### Deception v. Truth (1 John 1:4-2:2)

#### Doctrinal Affirmation

#### Dealing with Bitterness & Forgiveness (Eph. 4:31-32)

#### Dealing with Rebellion & Submission (Rom.13:1-5)

#### Dealing with Pride & Humility (James 4:6-10)

#### Dealing with Bondage & Freedom (Eph. 4:27; James 4:1; 1 Pet. 5:8; 1 John 1:9; Gal. 5:1)

#### Acquiescence & Renunciation

### The Result

#### Demons are subject to you in the name of Christ (Lk. 10:17)

#### You may cast out demons in the name of Christ (Acts 16:16-18)

#### Freedom & Deliverance in the Lord Jesus Christ!

## Identity in Christ

#### I am a child of God. John 1:12; 1 John 3:1, 2

#### I am the salt of the earth. Matthew 5:13

#### I am the light of the world. Matthew 5:14

#### I am part of the true vine, a channel of Christ’s life. John 15: 1, 5

#### I am Christ’s friend. John 15:15

#### I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit. John 15:16

#### I am a slave of righteousness.  Romans 6:18

#### I am enslaved to God.  Romans 6:22

#### I am a Son of God; God is spiritually my father. Rom. 8:14, 15; Gal. 3:26; 4:6

#### I am a joint heir with Christ, sharing His inheritance with Him. Romans 8:17

#### I am a temple- a dwelling place of God. His Spirit and His life dwells in me. 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19

#### I am united to the Lord and am one spirit with Him. 1 Corinthians 6:17

#### I am a member of Christ’s body. 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30

#### I am a new creation 2 Corinthians 5:17

#### I am reconciled to God, and am a minister of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19

#### I am a Son of God and one in Christ.  Galatians 3:26, 28

#### I am an heir of God since I am a Son of God. Galatians 4:6, 7

#### I am a Saint. Eph. 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philemon 1:1; Colossians 1:2

#### I am God’s Workmanship. ~ His handiwork ~ born anew in Christ, to do His work. Eph. 2:10

#### I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God’s family. Ephesians 2:19

#### I am a prisoner of Christ. Ephesians 3:1; 4:1

#### I am righteous and holy. Ephesians 4:24

#### I am a citizen of heaven, seated in heaven right now. Phil. 3:20; Eph. 2:6

#### I am hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3

#### I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life. Colossians 3:4

#### I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. Colossians 3:12; 1Thessalonians 1:4

#### I am a son of light and not of darkness. 1 Thessalonians 5:5

#### I am a holy partaker of a heavenly calling. Hebrews 3:14

#### I am a partaker of Christ; I share in His life. Hebrews 3:14

#### I am one of God’s living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house. 1 Peter 2:5

#### I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession. 1Peter 2:9, 10

#### I am an alien and stranger to this world in which I temporarily live. 1 Peter 2:11

#### I am born of God, and the evil one, the devil, cannot touch me. 1 John 3:1, 2

#### I am a friend of Jesus Christ. John 15:15

#### I have been justified.  Romans 5:1

#### I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.  1 Corinthians 6:19-20

#### I am a member of Christ's body.  1 Corinthians 12:27

#### I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child. Ephesians 1:3-8

#### I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. Colossians 1:13-14

#### I am complete in Christ.  Colossians 2:9-10

#### I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 4:14-16

#### I am free from condemnation. Romans 8:1-2

#### I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances. Romans 8:28

#### I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God. Romans 8:31-39

#### I have been established, anointed and sealed by God. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

#### I am hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1-4

#### I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.  Philippians 1:6

#### I am a citizen of heaven.  Philippians 3:20

#### I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.  2 Timothy 1:7

#### I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.  1 John 5:18

#### I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.  John 15:5

#### I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.  John 15:16

#### I am a minister of reconciliation for God.  2 Corinthians 5:17-21

#### I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.  Ephesians 2:6

#### I am God's workmanship.  Ephesians 2:10

#### I may approach God with freedom and confidence.  Ephesians 3:12

#### I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.  Philippians 4:13

#### I am NOT the great “I AM” but by the grace of God, I am what I am. Exodus 3:14; John 8:24, 28, 58; 1 Corinthians 15: 10[[1]](#footnote-1)

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1. All Scriptures references were culled from Neil Anderson’s, *Victory Over the Darkness* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)