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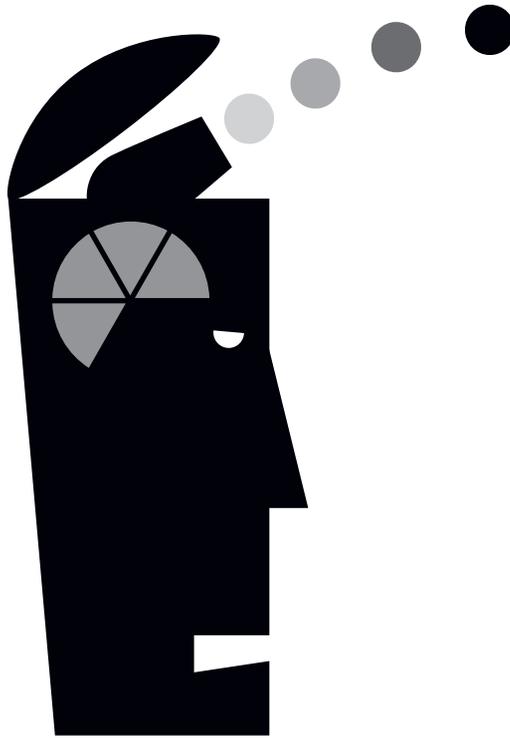
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WHAT IS A **SKEPTIC**?



WHAT IS A SKEPTIC?

WHY ARE PEOPLE SKEPTICS?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Skepticism is an *opportunity!* It shows us where the need for truth is.

How Prepared Are You?

■ On a scale of 1-10, how prepared are you to answer the objections like the ones below?

<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px; width: fit-content;"> <p>"C' MON, YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IN THE VIRGIN BIRTH, DO YOU?"</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px; width: fit-content;"> <p>"MODERN SCIENCE MAKES GOD UNNECESSARY?"</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px; width: fit-content;"> <p>"HOW CAN YOU SAY YOUR VALUES ARE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE'S?"</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px; width: fit-content;"> <p>"RELIGION IS THE CAUSE OF MOST OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS?"</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px; width: fit-content;"> <p>"THE BIBLE IS FULL OF MYTHS AND ERRORS."</p> </div>	<p>(ready)</p> <p>10</p> <p>9</p> <p>8</p> <p>7</p> <p>6</p> <p>5</p> <p>4</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>(clueless)</p>
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■ What kind of objections do you think are the most difficult to answer and why?

What Should We Expect?

- Read the verses below and answer the questions about what to expect when engaging skeptics:

Who will listen to me?
Their ears are closed
so they cannot hear.
The word of the Lord
is offensive to them;
they find no pleasure in it.
- Jer. 6: 10

When you tell them
all this, they will
not listen to you;
when you call to them,
they will not answer.
- Jer. 7: 27

If God knew the people would respond this way, what did he gain by sending Jeremiah?

³²When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, "We want to hear you again on this subject."

³⁴A few men became followers of Paul and believed.
- Acts 17: 32,34

¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

- Isa. 55:10-11

How do these verses affect your attitude toward engaging people with truth?

²⁴At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

²⁵"I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable."

²⁸Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"
- Acts 26:24-25, 28

- From the conversation above and the other passages on this page, which *two* options below best describe what mindset we should have when talking to skeptics?

- _____ **We should try to *CONVINCE* skeptics.**
- _____ **We should *SUPPORT OUR CLAIMS* to skeptics.**
- _____ **We should *COMMUNICATE TRUTH* to skeptics.**
- _____ **We should rely on *INTELLECTUAL ARGUMENTS*.**

Game Plan

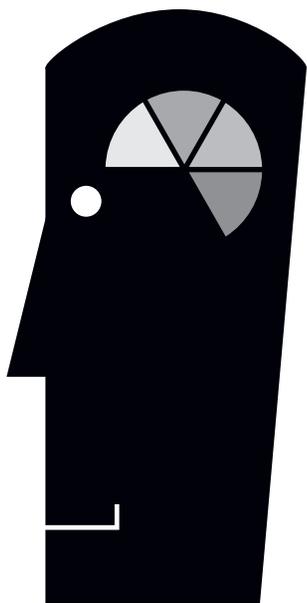
Without a plan, our conversations with skeptics are likely to become:

- A) **Games of fetch** in which the skeptic keeps the believer busy chasing down answers to his objections,
or,
- B) **Ping-pong matches** that exchange superficial points until one side can beat the other with the sharpest response, or until both sides get frustrated and quit.

■ Have you experienced a situations like these? Describe them:

...But we'll learn a different approach that will help send conversations in a more meaningful direction. This approach has the following three steps that we'll discuss in the coming pages:

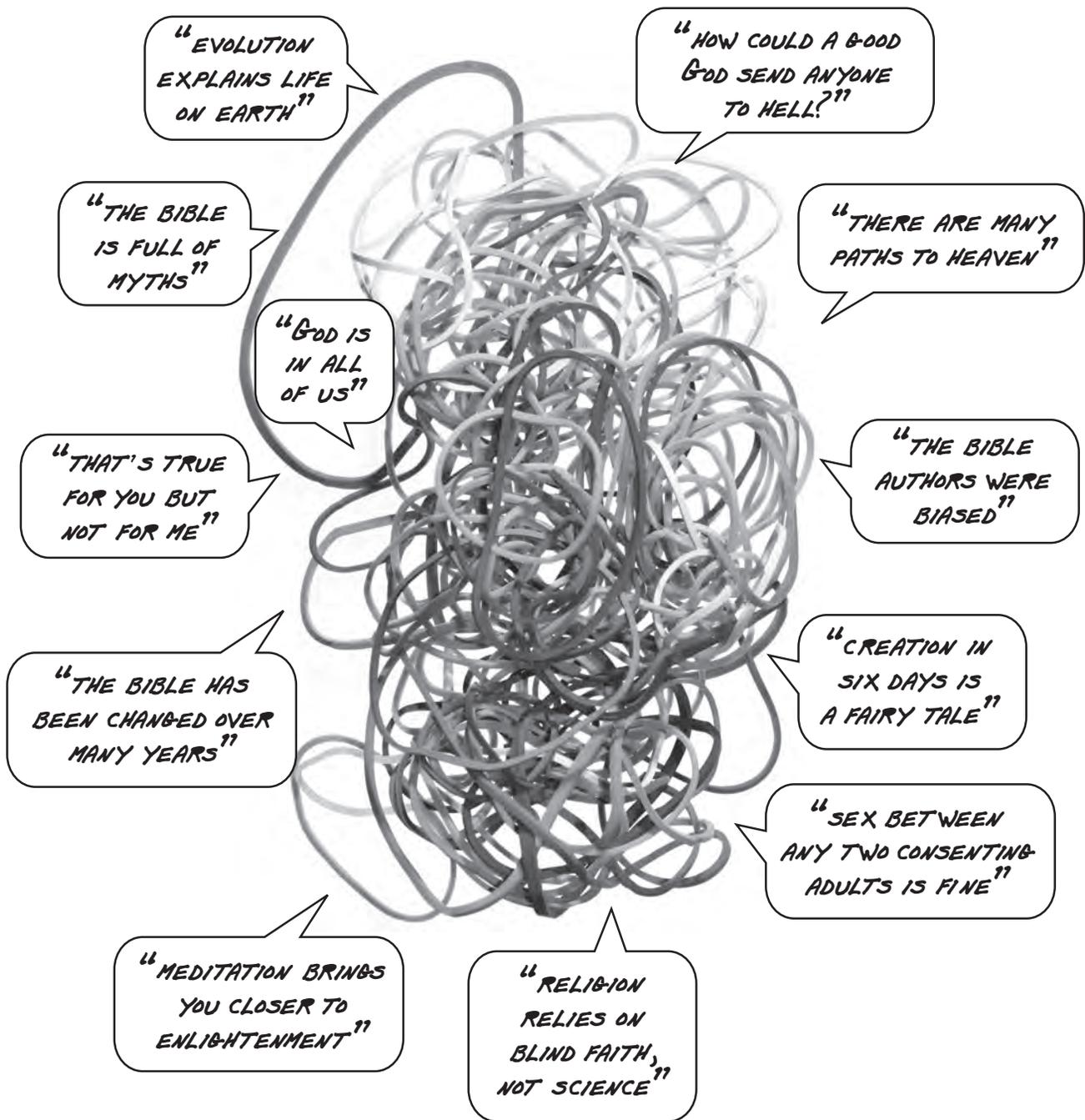
- 1) Think in 4 Categories
- 2) Clarify Words
- 3) Dig Up Root Ideas



THINK IN **4 CATEGORIES**

Don't Get Overwhelmed...

A skeptic's objections to the biblical worldview can seem like a tangled mess that is nearly impossible to unravel:



...Rethink It!

However, objections have something in common (see below) that allows us to put them into groups:

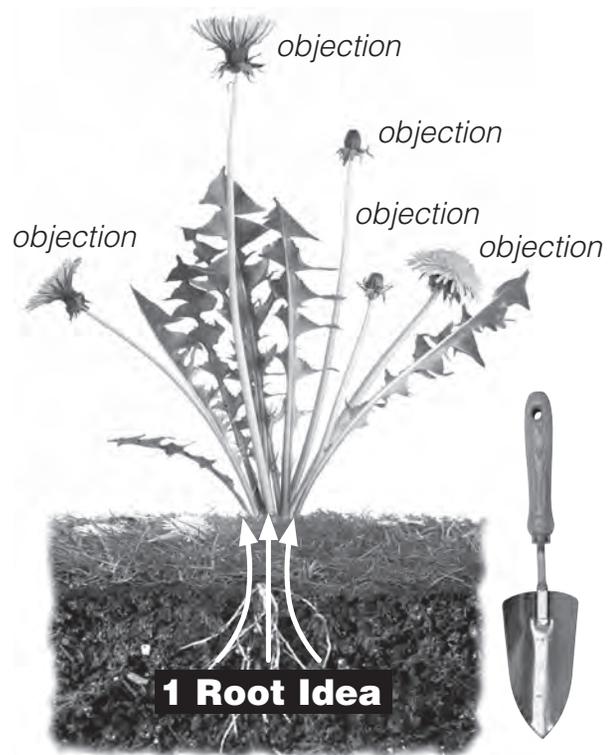
- To which category does each objection on the previous page sound like it belongs?*

 SPIRITUAL SKEPTICISM 	 MORAL SKEPTICISM 
 SCIENTIFIC SKEPTICISM 	 BIBLICAL SKEPTICISM 

*Sometimes objections sound like they belong to one category but actually belong to another, so we need to clarify them - p.12.

Root Idea

- A Root Idea is the assumption or false premise** that feeds objections a skeptic raises. It is like a root that feeds weeds sprouting from it.
- There is a Root Idea behind each group of objections. *We don't have to debate every objection (pull up all the weeds) if we dig up the root.*
- The key is recognizing what kind of objection the skeptic is raising so we'll know what questions to ask. The goal is to get beyond surface-level debates.

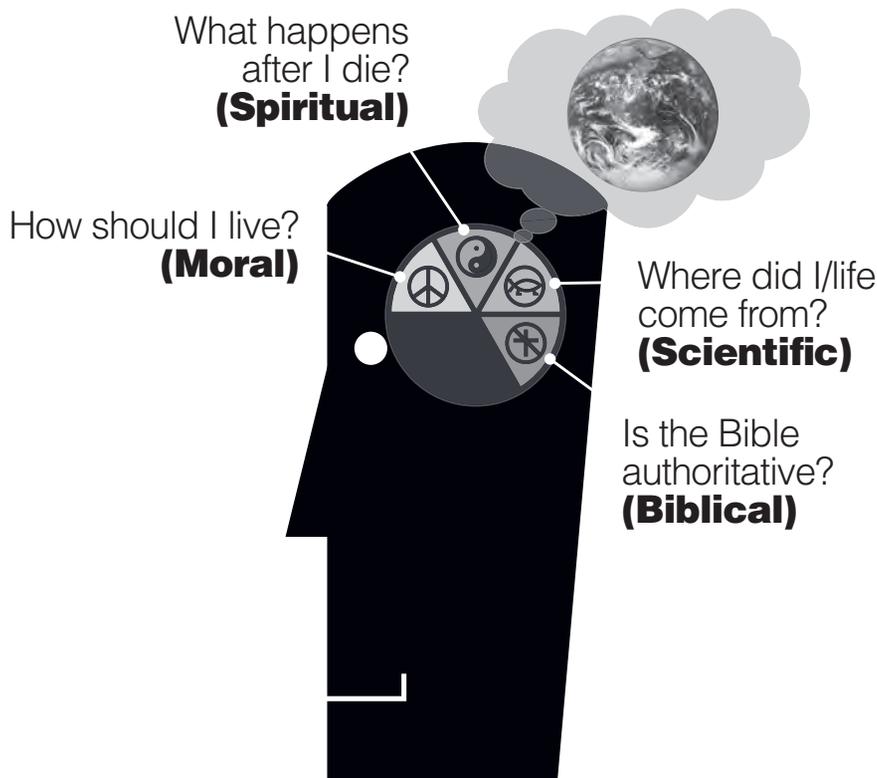


**or presupposition

4 Parts of a Worldview

Together, ideas from the 4 CATEGORIES make up a person's total worldview, so when a skeptic raises an objection, we get a glimpse of how he sees the world.

Why four parts? Because eventually everyone asks life's big questions about the four subjects below:



■ How might a non-believer answer each one of these questions?

How should I live?

Where did I/life come from?

What happens after I die?

Is the Bible authoritative?
