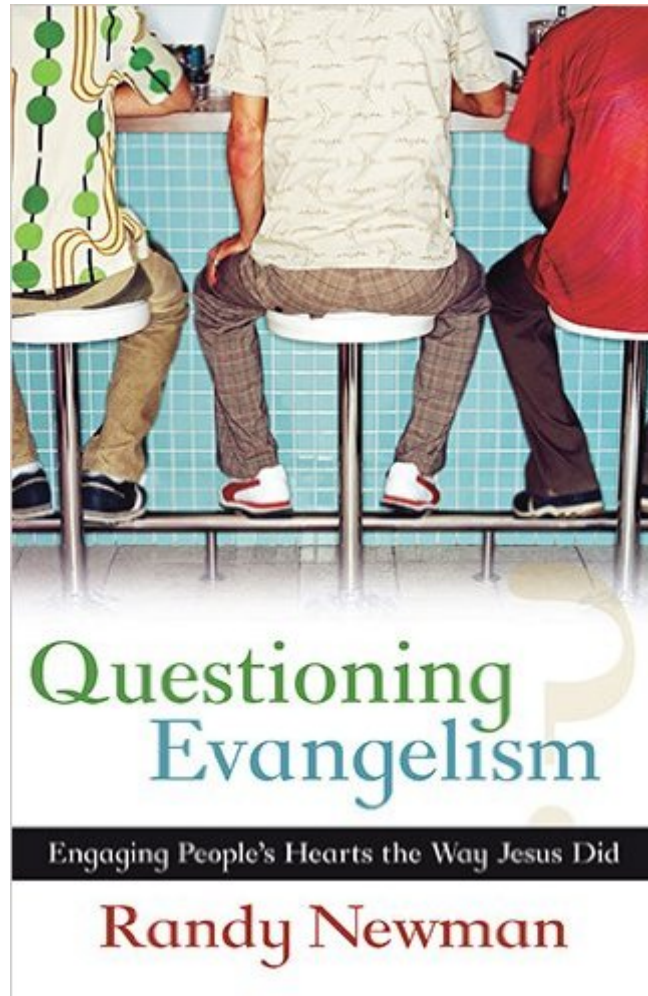


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# Questioning Evangelism



## Synopsis

A revolutionary look at sharing Christ with unbelievers by using the probing, provocative, and penetrating method Jesus used to engage others in personal dialogue and caring interaction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

How do you respond to a question? The quick response is probably an answer. Sometimes answers and defenses to our positions are too much though. They can shut people down and often show lack of compassion. We want to spread the hope of the gospel message but preaching turns people off. Those of us who confess Jesus as the answer often ignore the fact that he left many the questions asked him unanswered. Author Randy Newman suggests that we engage people around us in the way Jesus often did- by asking questions, even answering questions with questions. By using dialogue in this rabbinic style, we can engage people in such a way as to get them to think about their beliefs. Furthermore, and maybe more importantly, by doing so we can engage their hearts because a person's acceptance of the gospel is not solely based on their ability to reason. Questions can get people who have never considered why they believe some things to be true to honestly think about them. Asking questioning can tear down strongholds of false views and build plausibility for the gospel. Examples of this kind of questioning dialogue, often from real conversations, are sprinkled throughout this book. Of course, not all questions are genuine, or even questions at all, but rather attacks. Newman is aware this. Sometimes the best response is not to answer the attack but to ask a question. Even simple questions like "really?" and "so?" can turn a conversation around. It levels the playing field and opens the path for further serious

discussion. While remaining accessible, the book gives insight on how to respond to weighty questions such as "Why does God allow evil?", "Why are Christians so homophobic?", and "If Jesus is so great, why are some of his followers such jerks?" There aren't easy answers to all the questions.

Randy: How's the weather down there? Grandma Belle: How could the weather be in Florida in the middle of July? Randy: How's your family? Aunt Vivian: Compared to whom? In this way Randy Newman starts off his book on evangelism. Responding to a question with a question was the daily routine for Newman as he grew up in a Jewish home. Yet he points to Jesus, the master evangelist, as the supreme example in this. For Jesus answering a question with a question was the norm; a clear concise direct answer was a rarity. Take the rich young ruler for example - if ever there was a great opportunity to demonstrate how to explain the gospel this was it. Yet when asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?", Jesus responds, "Why do you call me good?" Newman argues that so often we are too quick to answer, and that as we answer with our perfectly accurate answer, they aren't listening anyway. His point is that we need to engage their minds as well as simply present the truth. He says, "Answering a question with a question... brings to the surface the questioner's assumptions. It also takes the pressure off you... this is important because as long as we're on the defensive, the questioners are not really wrestling with the issues. They're just watching us squirm." Throughout the book Newman illustrates with excerpts from his own work as a college evangelist over the last 20 years. With great openness he shows, not only the times he got it right, but also the times he got it wrong, and the lessons he learned from each occasion. He also gives practical suggestions throughout for questions you could ask, as well as giving dialogues to show how a conversation might go.

QUESTIONING EVANGELISM is a somewhat humorous collection of questions and answers to engage people in the discussion of how to follow the teachings of Jesus. Important lessons are scattered throughout this text, such as immorality prevents us from turning to Christ. Real tools to open a dialogue with others are included, instead of situations that would turn away people from learning about Jesus. For instance the text includes guides about when and who to engage, as well as who to leave alone (fools). It also includes information about how to know the difference. Are they interested in the truth? QUESTIONING EVANGELISM is not just a guide it has many roles to play and offers many useable answers to common questions. Those of us eager to witness to other people, but unsure of how to do it, will find answers to how to address issues such as

homosexuality, adultery, idolatry, abortion and other combustible issues. QUESTIONING EVANGELISM points out that using a question, instead of an answer, to a question, follows the teachings of Jesus. And we all know Jesus did this very well. By questioning someone's question, we can then open a dialog that is neither threatening nor invasive. Instead we can then begin to chat with others about the true meaning of Christ and His teachings, and we can come to deeper understandings within ourselves as we also offer others a way to find deeper understanding. Newman addresses questions such as: \* Why are Christians so intolerant? \* To why does a good God allow evil and suffering? \* Why should anyone worship a God who allowed 9/11? \* Why should we believe an ancient book written by dead Jewish males? \* If Jesus is so great, why are some of his followers such jerks?

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