BIBLE WARFARE HOW TO DEFEND YOUR FAITH

ANSWERING THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED OF MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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STUDENT WORKBOOK

BIDIETAIK





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Bible Warfare

How to Defend Your Faith

Mike Mazzalongo

This series is a training session to help Christians understand their own religion and prepare them to answer common challenges and questions concerning the Bible and its teachings.



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1. The Basics: Rules of Engagement for Successfully Sharing Your Faith

In any type of warfare, there are rules of engagement. These are put in place for the protection of all parties involved and to also help the battle (or discussion) move forward.
Introduction – This class has been designed to help you defend your faith when discussing religion or faith issues with others.
Rules of Engagement In war, there are rules of engagement that are designed to mitigate the damage and loss of life.
In Bible warfare, there are also these kinds of rules so that the discussion can continue in a productive way.
Rule #1 - Understand that people areabout their beliefs.
Members of the Church of Christ do not have a corner on sincerity or on zeal.

" speak the truth in love." – Ephesians 4:5
Rule #2 - Stick to
Our task is given to us in Matthew 28:20
There are some important reasons for sticking to the Word of God:
It's Biblical – II Timothy 3:16
It keeps the debate in perspective.

Rule #3 – Be
Some folks understand intellectually (head) but require more time to accept things emotionally (heart) The Apostles
At times, there are many obstacles that people need to overcome in order to believe or accept what is taught.
Family Loyalty
We need to be willing to keep the discussion going as long as the other person agrees to continue sharing and discussing.

Summary Review the basics: 1. Give people credit. 2. Study God's Word. 3. Be Patient!

2. Only the Church of Christ Saved?

In this lesson, Mike explains the history and attitude behind the most asked question for members of the Church of Christ, 'Why do you think you're the only ones going to heaven?'

ntroduction – Remember the Rules of Engagement:	
. Respect	
. Stick	
. Be	
. Don't	

Summary of Questions

The different questions asked in this course fall into four categories. For example:

1. **Doctrinal Questions**

- Is there only one true church?
- Questions on worship
- The inspiration of Scripture
- Baptism
- Salvation issues
- Misc. doctrinal questions about the church, Adam and Eve, the death and resurrection of Jesus, heaven and converts to Christianity from Judaism.

2. Evangelism

- Various questions about how to approach others with the Gospel in different situations.

3. Bible Facts

- Mostly issues from the Old Testament and a question about the time Jesus was in the grave.

4. Miscellaneous

- Why are there so many religions and several questions about the Bible itself.

Doctrinal Questions

Aside from general questions about various worship issues the most repeated question was:	

There's no easy one-word answer to this comment or question.
Usually, a question or response to an attitude.
When someone gives this impression it's usually because they've broken all the rules of Bible Warfare.
A. They were not
D. The discussion was made
B. The discussion was made
C. We were to convert.
How do we answer this question?
What we really believe is
Only Christians are going to heaven, only – Acts 4:12
The Bible says that not all – Matthew 7:21-23

The task of all Christians is to obey and teach all things that Jesus commanded. – Matthew 28:20
When someone asks me this question therefore, I answer by telling them four things: 1. I offer an
2. I inform them that
3. I assure them that in the Church of Christ our #1 priority is
4. I ask them if
Basis for Answering Questions Every question in this class will be answered by using the same approach.
A
B

3. Miscellaneous Questions about Baptism and Forgiveness

Mike answers questions concerning which baptism is the one true baptism found in the Bible, and when forgiveness is applied. **Introduction** – Remember the Rules of Engagement: 1. Respect _____ 2. Stick 3. Be **Salvation Questions Question:** What scriptures best show that baptism is necessary for salvation? **Answer:** Begin with understanding that many people believe there are still three baptisms available today. The Bible teaches that only one baptism is to be preached. – Ephesians 4:4-6

Baptism is by immersion in water
Matthew 3:5-6
John 4:1-2
Acts 2:38
Acts 22:16
Colossians 3:26-27
General Doctrine
Question:
How do we prove Jesus was immersed when He was baptized?
A. Old Testament Practice
B. New Testament Practice
C. Word Meanings
Question:
When is forgiveness applied? Where is the point of grace?
We believe that the Bible teaches
Mark 16:16 – Belief and Baptism

John 3:5 – Water and S	Spirit		
Acts 2:38 - Repent and	d Baptize		
The argument about E	Baptism being a work		
	ne or create righteousness, only the	2	does this for us
I Pete	er 2:24		
Baptism is a	act that	our faith.	
For example:			
Adam and Eve			
Noah			
Abraham			
Jesus			
Apostles and Disciples	3		
Acts 22:16			

4. 4 Principles of Personal Evangelism

In this lesson, we see how to share your faith with people of different religious backgrounds. We also examine four principles of evangelism found in the New Testament.

Introduction – Remember the Rules of Engagement:
1. Respect
2. Stick
3. Be
Questions on Evangelistic Approach
Some questions dealt with how to approach people of different religions
The Bible provides basic principles for evangelizing everyone, especially the book of Acts.
Principle #1
Luke 6:1-2 – Jesus prayed
Acts 13:1 - Apostles prayed
Through prayer we put all things into their proper context.
Romans 1:16
Romans 8:28

Principle #2
Faced with an array of opposing belief systems, the Apostles simply preached the gospel. – Acts 2:1-38
The Gospel in its Simplest Terms
I believe that the Bible teaches:
A. Jesus the divine Son of God, proven so by fulfilled prophecy, miracles and His resurrection,
died on the cross to atone for all of my sins and yours as well (Romans 1:14;3:21-23).
B. My own resurrection and eternal life is made possible not by perfect obedience but
rather by faith in Him which is expressed in repentance, baptism and faithful discipleship
(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Matthew 10:22).
C. Jesus is the only person through whom a person can be saved and thus have a relationship with
the true God of heaven (Acts 4:12; John 14:6).
You are responsible for proclaiming the gospel, not their decision or response
Principle #3
There is no "silver bullet" scripture
If you proclaim the gospel, it will force each person to react somehow
Romans 1:18-20

Principle #4
Conversion is sometimes a long process.
Sometimes God needs to get their attention first.
Sometimes the only thing we can do is let God do His work I Timothy 2:4
Remember the pattern for evangelism:
Pray
Proclaim
Persevere
Patience

5. What Makes the Churches of Christ Unique? - Part 1

Christ and how it is different from other churches claiming Jesus as Lord.
Introduction – Review
Questions about the Church
What's the difference between the Church of Christ and?
Our unique claim is that we are a New Testament church and this can be explained from two perspectives – Theological and Historical.
A. Theological
New Testament churches are different from others theologically because our approach to the Bibl is different in two basic ways:
1. We believe that
The Bible warns us not to add or take away from its content:
Proverbs 30:6
I Corinthians 4:6
Revelation 22:18-19

2. We apply the Bible differently.
Note that the only thing that separates most groups that claim to be Christians is the way they
approach and apply the Bible in practical matters.
The "pattern" theology approach.
The pattern approach says that the Bible contains "patterns" that guide us in reproducing Christian
principles and practices in every age and culture (I Timothy 1:13; Jude 3).
We are different from other Christian religious groups because we try to follow the principle of "pattern theology" in all we do.
A good example of this is the area of use of music in worship.
Every passage that refers to music in the New Testament teaches that we should "sing." I Corinthians 14:15
Ephesians 5:19
Colossians 3:16
James 5:13

The question is, "Do we want to be popular, contemporary or biblical?"		
When it comes to biblical Christianity, the Church of Christ follows the plan of Pattern of Theology		
or what it does and other groups are not committed to this idea.		

6. What Makes the Churches of Christ Unique? - Part 2

In this lesson, Mike continues to answer the most asked questions about the Churches of Christ and how it is different from other churches claiming Jesus as Lord.

Introduction – Review the Rules of Engagement:	
1. Respect	
2. Stick	
3. Be	
Rules can't always be practical	
Review - What's the Difference?	
We're different because we are a	_ and they are not
What is a New Testament church and how is it different?	
A. Different Theologically	
1. Inspiration	
2. Pattern Theology	
Z. Tatterii Theology	
We try to follow the pattern in the New Testament for Christian life and practice.	

This Week's Questions 1. Why Use Pattern Theology? A. Old Testament Patriarchs and Prophets used it. Genesis 4:4-5 Genesis 6:22 Exodus 39:43 _____ I Kings 5:5 We see many examples of Bible characters using pattern theology in response to God and His Word. B. Jesus and Apostles used it. Matthew 28:20 I Corinthians 11:1 II Timothy 1:13 Jude 3 The New Testament even warns against apostasy from this approach. – Acts 20:27-32

2. When did we start doing this?
1500s - Martin Luther
1700s – Restoration Movement
Barton W. Stone
Alexander & Thomas Campbell
Churches of Christ – Romans 16:16
3. Why are there divisions in the Churches of Christ?
Mainline Churches of Christ
Disciples of Christ
Disciples of Christ
Christian Churches
christian churches
International Churches of Christ
In the end, any departure from the twin principles of inspiration and Pattern Theology causes

7. Using Pattern Theology to Answer Questions

In this lesson, Mike reviews the arguments used to support the inspiration of the Bible and how to answer questions concerning the faith using the device of pattern theology.

Introduction – Review the Rules of Engagement:
1
2
3
Review - Pattern Theology
These questions need an understanding of Pattern Theology to be answered.
1. Why don't we use instruments of music in worship?
2. Why are there no women leading public worship?
3. Why do we take communion every Sunday?
The Churches of Christ are different for two reasons:
A. What we believe
We believe that the Bible is inspired because:
1. The Bible claims
2. The Bible survived
3. The Bible is among books.
4. The Bible is
5. The Bible contains

Once a document has these qualities it can be considered
B. The way we
We use Pattern Theology
Question #1 - Music in Worship
Three main reasons why we use a cappella music.
1
Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 1:1-2
2
I Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; James 5:13
3
When you use instruments in worship you do so without the support of the New Testament.
Question #2 - Women in Worship
Look at the "pattern" in the New Testament and you will find:
1. No
- Acts 2:42: Acts 13:1-3

2. Specific	
	I Corinthians 14:34; I Timothy 2:11-12
Question #3 - Commu	nion in Worship
	Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23-26; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Hebrews 10:25
Summary	
Two guidelines to help y	ou use Pattern Theology accurately:
1. Obedience and Discer	nment
2. Culture and Eternity _	

8. Is Church Attendance/Baptism Mandatory?

Mike deals with the often-used arguments against the necessity of regular worship and the importance of a proper biblical baptism.

Introduction – Review the Rules of Engagement – Again!
1
2
3
Doctrine
1. Is corporate public worship necessary?
2. Is membership in the Church of Christ necessary?
1. Worship is mandatory.
God has always commanded worship from His people.
God has always required proper worship.
The Bible in the Old Testament / New Testament says we must worship God.
Old Testament (Exodus 20:8)
New Testament – Teaching/Example
Do you have to go three times a week?
The answer is found in a comparison with marriage

2. Do you have to be a member of the Church of Ch	rist?
Yes, for three reasons:	
A. You cannot be saved	
Colossians 1:13	
B. You don't choose a church	
Matthew 16:18	
Acts 2:47	
C. There are lots of religious groups	
Calmatian	
Salvation	
"If a person is not baptized in a Church of Chris	t but later wants to become a member, do
they have to be re-baptized?"	
For baptism to be biblical, it must be	in the right way and done for the
right	
1. The manner of baptism	
The word "baptize" means to immerse or bury.	

2. The reasons for baptism	
Many biblical reasons for baptism:	
Discipleship – Matthew 28:18	Church Membership – Acts 2:47
Obedience – Mark 16:16	Wash Sins Away – Acts 22:16
Re-birth – John 3:3	Buried/Resurrect with Christ - Romans 6:3-5
Enter the Kingdom – John 3:5	Put on Christ – Galatians 3:26
Forgiveness – Acts 2:38	Clear Conscience – I Peter 3:21
Holy Spirit - Acts 2:38	To be Saved – I Peter 3:21
Three points to remember:	
A. Baptism is always connected to	
B. Any reason is good	d enough.
C. Baptism for a non-biblical reason is	
Acts 19:1-7	
The final answer to the question is:	
The iniai answer to the queetien is:	

9. What Other Religions Teach About Salvation

In this lesson, Mike will review the beliefs of the 11 major world religions concerning salvation and compare these with the teachings of Christianity on this important subject.

Questions about "church" are debated among "Christians."
Questions about "salvation" become difficult when discussed between Christians and non-
Christians.
Major Religions of the World
1. Near Easter Religions
Zoroastrianism
Judaism
Christianity
2. Eastern Religions
Islam
Hinduism
Sikhism
3. Far Eastern Religions
Confucianism

Shinto		
Buddhism		
Taoism		
4. Non-organized Religions		
Paganism		
Atheism		
Note some interesting features when comparing	ng these religions:	
A. All have some form of salvation.		
The flave some form of surveyour		
B. All except Christianity are based on Law/Wo	orks systems	
Zoroastrianism	Confucianism	
Judaism	Shintoism	
Islam	Taoism	
Hinduism	Paganism	
Sikhism	Atheism	
In every one of these, the burden for	is on	to do something.
Christianity is the only religion where		
C. Salvation from a Christian perspective is:		
Available		
Not geographically		
Tangible		
Promises		
Offered in		
Filled with		

Christianity's teaching on salvation is:
Universal
Unique
Unlimited
The "Noble Savage"
Do you have to be a Christian to be saved?
What about those who didn't hear the gospel?
Romans 1:18-32
vs. 18-19
vs. 14-16
vs. 9-12

10. Church Organization

In this lesson, Mike answers questions regarding the Biblical pattern for church organization and function, and how this is different from the structure of many churches in the modern era.

Intro : Last week we learned some important facts when comparing the teaching on "salvation"
from the 12 major religions of the world.
1. Eleven of the twelve
2. Christianity was the only religion where
3. When compared, the nature of salvation in Christianity is
Miscellaneous Questions
1. Explain congregational autonomy
Many churches are organized using various models:
Roman Catholic church
Protestant churches
Evangelical churches
Sectarian churches

I've explained the "core" beliefs of the Church of Christ that make us different: We believe	
We believe that we should be trying to	
Historically, the effort to use strictly New Testament organization, teaching, and practice has been referred to as	
According to the New Testament of Christian shows by your medicine of	
According to the New Testament, a Christian church was made up of	
Ephesians 4:11-12; I Timothy 3:1-13; Acts 20:17-35	
There were specific "offices" or "roles" of leadership:	
A. Apostles	
B. Prophets	
C. Elders / Presbyters	
Pastors / Shepherds	
Bishops / Overseers	
D. Evangelists / Preachers	
E. Deacons	
F. Saints	

The New Testament replaced the work of Apostles and Prophets.
In the New Testament church, each congregation was autonomous and led by its own set of local
leaders.
When we piece together the picture of the early New Testament church, here is what we see:
Churches
Each congregation
Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists
This model stayed in place until 300-400 AD
Churches of Christ have over 20,000 congregations throughout the world.

11. Garden of Eden and Noah's Flood Questions

This lesson is devoted to miscellaneous questions concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; dinosaurs; the population of the world before the great flood, etc. **Introduction** – Last two lessons for Bible Questions. **Old Testament Questions** 1. Why did God forbid eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? C. _____ 2. Why doesn't the Bible mention dinosaurs? Deinos = Terrible Sauros = Lizard Isaiah 27:1

3. Where did Cain and Abel get their wives?		
4. Enoch and Elijah didn't see death. Some say that they are the "firstborn" from the dead, not Jesus. How do you answer this?		
Genesis 5:21-24		
Hebrews 11:5		
II Kings 2:11		
Colossians 1:15-18		
5. Why aren't the Apocryphal books included in the Bible? How do we know which books		
belong in the Bible?		
Apocrypha =		
Canon =		
For books to be included in the "canon" they had to have certain qualifications:		
A. Authorship		
B. Recognition		
C. Circulation		
D. Scrutiny		
E. Expression		

The Old Testament canon was collected and set in the First Century.
The New Testament canon
6. Is the "Living Bible" a good version?
The original manuscripts of the Bible were written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek
Versions are "styles" of language
A note of caution about versions

12. How can God die if Jesus is God? And other questions.

In this last lesson in the series, Mike will be answering more miscellaneous questions posed in the survey. This includes questions about Lent, various church rituals and our state of mind in heaven.

ntro – We're answering miscellaneous questions from the Old Testament and New Testament
Aiscellaneous Questions from the New Testament
Question #1 - What is Lent? Does it apply to us?
ash Sunday / Palm Sunday
New Testament gives us only two rituals or observances:
a. Baptism
at baptism, a person:
Matthew 28:18-20
Mark 16:16
ohn 3:5
acts 2:38
acts 2:47
Galatians 3:26
Peter 3:21b
Potor 3.21a

B. The Lord's Supper
Question #2 – Can a Jewish convert to Christianity continue to celebrate Jewish feasts?
Question #3 – Why did Jesus' human side agree to give up His life?
Luke 22:41-44
I Peter 2:22
Question #4 – How can God die if Jesus is God?
John 1:1-18
Hebrews 2:14-15

Question #5 – How long was Jesus in the grave?
Mark 9:31
Question #6 – Will we know each other in heaven?
Matthew 22:30
Jude 9
Daniel 10:21
Revelation 22:1-5

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