

## “TACTICS” – SESSION 5 “TAKING THE ROOF OFF”

- I. When you press a view to its logical conclusions, the results turn out to be absurd.
  - A. Mt. 12:22-32. Casting out demons by the ruler of demons. Jesus said that Satan is casting out Satan. Satan is working < himself. **This is absurd.** It’s taking the roof off.
  - B. You take the roof off and then **give it a test drive.** See if a statement is true (test drive) and then see if the route takes you over a cliff. If it does then there is something wrong with where you started in the 1<sup>st</sup> place.
  - C. The point of this tactic is to see if a person can really live w. the moral or intellectual consequences of his beliefs. Take a point and **reduce it to its absurd conclusion or consequence.**
- II. Why is this tactic so powerful?
  - A. If the person denies God or anything about the truth about God and His world, then he is **denying reality.**
  - B. If you deny reality or the Xpn world view, then your belief is a denial of reality and there will be collision between what the false world view dictates and the way the world actually is. Francis Schaeffer called this the **point of contention.**
  - C. Non-believers erect this protective roof over themselves. The roof protects them from the consequences of their own idea.
  - D. We take the roof off and help people **face the consequences of their own view.**
- III. What happens if you have a **moral relativist?** They say there is no objective morality.
  - A. What do you do? Steal their stereo. In the real world they are moral realists.
  - B. So you create a situation that forces them to take the roof off. **Use questions!**
    1. Ex.: Naturalistic Darwinian evolution. If Darwinism is true then the only rule that matters in the world is that **the strong rule the weak.** There are no objective, moral principles in Darwinism.
    2. Ask this question. What is your principled objection to genocide? There is no principled objection considering their world view. You have just taken the roof off.
    3. In the real world there is terrible evil, but they don’t want to admit it.
    4. Ex.: Atheist Sam Harris and determinism. A determinist believes that the whole world is a complicated set of dominoes falling.
      - a) There can’t be anything like free-will because you can’t get free-will from a materialistic world. If determinism is true, you can’t have any morally. People can’t be praised for good things and blamed for bad things they do. This doesn’t work in a world where there is no good or bad. There are no choices to be made.
      - b) Sam Harris, therefore, can’t talk about morality or argue in favor of atheism, Darwinism and even determinism because to argue in favor of something means that you have the freedom of choice to assess the argument and come to a conclusion based on the evidence. In determinism you are determined to believe what you believe because of the physical circumstances before you. You take the roof off.
  - C. Ex.: Born a homosexual. The principle is that if I were born that way, then it is natural to me. If it’s natural to me then it must be OK for me.
    1. I have a natural/in-born impulse to beat up homosexuals when I meet them. Respond. What is your defense of that? Something natural to me is not a wise at all.
    2. Civilization is: **Exhibiting restraint.**
  - D. Ex.: Death penalty. Mother Teresa: Jesus would forgive.
    1. The rationale: Whatever Jesus would forgive we shouldn’t punish. Jesus would forgive everything. This proves to be too much.
  - E. Ex.: I’m not hurting anyone so my morality is OK. Peeping Tom.
  - F. Ex.: There is no truth. Is that statement true? Why go to the University? Truth: We are truth seekers.
- IV. Summary: Take the roof off. 3 steps.
  - A. **Reduce** the pt. of view to its basic premise.
  - B. **Adopt it as true for the purpose of discussion.**
  - C. **Reflect on it and give it a test drive.** If it’s absurd or is immoral and takes you over a cliff then it then the starting place is bad.
- V. Home work: Be alert to points of view that might lead to absurd conclusions if practiced consistently.

