

Three Concepts from: *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*
By: Nick Pollard

1. The Process of Positive Deconstruction, p. 48-55
2. God centered teaching, p. 76
3. Skepticism Can be Healthy, p.89

I find the process of positive deconstruction of a worldview to be a great tool to use in helping in being a witness for Christ in the world. Pollard makes a good point when he first mentions this process, by taking time to learn and understand the major worldviews. I feel this is such an important asset in evangelism. In the ministry I work in, outreaching to international students, I find there are many different worldviews I come encounter with and I am not completely informed on all the major worldviews and in turn I find it hard to connect with a students where they are at in sharing Christ with them and even begin the process of positive deconstruction. However, once having the foundation of a particular worldview I think it would be very effective in going through the process of positive deconstruction with a person to reveal to that person incoherencies, how it may not correspond to reality, and how it could possible not work as a function. I agree with Pollard that most people are unaware of all that their worldview entails. Just going over the first step of the positive deconstruction of a worldview, identifying the worldview, can be eye opening for a person and lead into other conversations about God and what the Christian worldview is. There are so many questions and different ways you can turn a conversation into spiritual matters and into sharing the Gospel of Christ by going through the process of positive deconstruction that are very effective for me in sharing with International students.

I like the teaching model that Pollard mentions on page 76, the God-centered teaching model. In the ministry of outreaching to International students we do a Friday night dinner outreach with a Bible discussion time at the end. Recently, we have just been discussing how to manage the Bible discussion time. Some on the ministry team to reach International students have mentioned doing a teaching to the whole group from one teacher, the teacher-center model. Others on the team have mentioned how they feel it is most effective to have the students discuss questions on

a certain topic so that they discover truth on their own, the student-centered teaching model.

However, I agree with Pollard that “God is the authority; he creates and holds truth. Both the teacher and the student are attempting to understand and respond to it. Truth is not determined by the teacher who communicates it, or by the student, who formulates it. Rather it is determined by God, who reveals it. And the teacher and student work together to seek after truth and respond to it” (Pollard, p. 76). I feel this shows a need for a balance in teaching the Word of God to seeker and believers alike. I feel you need a teacher to help guide facilitate student discussion but always going back to the truth, the Word of God for the answers to questions and what shapes our worldview. We need never to forget that all truth hinges on God and not on our own conjured up conclusions. I feel it is so easy sometimes to slip into the postmodern mentality when teaching on truth. However, if we remember the God-centered teaching model then we will always be in check with the author of truth and who is truth, Jesus.

I agree with Pollard when he says on page 89 that skepticism can be healthy. I feel sometimes Christians get caught in just believing what others tell them without really seeking, questioning and discovering the truth by digging into the tough questions of life and purpose. We need to see skepticism, as Pollard puts it, “...not as a conclusion but as a methodology, a way of seeking after truth” (Pollard p. 89). It is so true that we as Christians need to have a genuine humility in our faith and journey with Christ. Pollard’s concept of going through the process of positive deconstruction as a Christian is a great way to apply the verse in I Peter 3:15 where it states, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” When we, as Christians, truly analyze what we believe we will become more aware of our own faith and worldview and be able to stand up for what we believe rather than cowering away in silent thinking, “I am not sure what I believe.” I see a lot of Christian that really do not know what they believe or they don’t stand up for what they believe because they are unsure of what they believe. I feel it is one of my goals as I minister to the Chinese Youth, in the Akron Chinese Christian Church, to equip them to be students of their faith and continue seek truth and analyze their faith in Christ. I desire to prepare

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these Chinese students effective witnesses for Christ in the world today. I feel going through the positive deconstruction process with your own Christian faith is very important in developing a strong faith in Christ.