

WHAT'S THE PERSON ACROSS FROM YOU LIKELY TO BELIEVE? AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?

- 1) Think he/she may be nervous, or angry, or both? Be understanding.
- 2) Remember, he/she fears you will discover how little he/she knows. Since you already know how little he/she knows, be understanding.
- 3) He/she, if of college age, may knowingly or unknowingly be a part of the "cancel culture". That is, <u>one who preaches tolerance while practicing intolerance</u>. In discussion, it manifests itself as, "When I speak you'd better listen, and I will help you by raising my volume oh, and if you speak, I promise to close both my ears and my mind." <u>Be understanding</u>, but only to a point. If this is a "knowing" cancel culture practitioner, I have some advice that I won't give here.
- 4) I will assure you again and again that the self-proclaimed Atheist seated across from you is rarely an Atheist. He or she is more likely to be an Atheist wannabe.
- 5) He or she loves his or her darkness and hates the light and stands condemned before you.

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil, for everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." John 3:18-20

Look at points 1-5 again. You may have noticed that I asked, "what's the person across from you likely to believe, and then I supplied no answer. Instead, I told you what the person across from you is like. Today's Godless folks are chaotic in their thinking. They are like a frightened man, in a cave 100 hundred feet beneath the Earth's surface, shouting the 7 pet phrases he has heard another shout, with all his might. ALL THE POOR MAN CAN HEAR IS THE



NEVER-ENDING ECHO of his own shouting. What can such a man see? A consideration of such a cave's darkness supplies the answer. One is reminded of Martin Luther's talk of the "disordered chaos of darkness".

You see, these poor nervous-nellies don't really believe anything. What I mean is anything of their own; something that is a product of their personal study and reflection. They are second-handers. That is, they have no original thoughts, they pilfer thoughts from others. Most of what you will hear from these folks originated with the members of our Traveling Medicine Show, Harris, Dawkins, Hawking, and Hitchens. You will soon learn that except for Hawking, the others are also men who have simply pilfered thoughts from Atheists who preceded them and called them their own. It pains these men to attribute as they should.

Do not fear a conversation with any Atheist, ninety percent of the time they know very little about true Atheist thought, and even less about the ramifications of true Atheist thought. Be kind, these willfully blind and deaf folks need a guide. You can shed a light on life for them.





THE PERSON ACROSS FROM YOU IS FALLEN

Bill, what do you mean fallen? I'm glad you asked. It is time for me to remind you what the Bible has to say about the man or woman across from you. Do not judge the book by its cover. The inerrant, infallible word of God alone is authoritative about what a man is like.

When Adam and Eve sinned, everything changed, and I mean radically. They fell from their original righteousness, and their communion with God was gone. They were wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of their souls and bodies. Yes, that means minds, wills, and emotions. They were "dead" in sin.

The guilt of Adam's sin was imputed to every man or woman born thereafter. It remains so today. His corrupt nature became ours by birth. Adam fell, and therefore, we are fallen by nature.

We are wholly inclined to all evil. It is why your baby, as soon as it can speak, lies to you.

"The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies."

Psalm 58:3

Fallen men and women love their darkness. I will let you see some of what the Bible says about a fallen man or woman. This is what you were if you are truly a Christian now. This is what the person seated across from you still is.

I tell you what, let's address this a bit differently. Let's have Rollie, a typical herd-loving, former Sunday school attendee, placard-carrying, aspiring social worker who is fully supported by his parents, all the while boasting of his independence, sit down with us for a chat.

Oh, Rollie has agreed to receive sodium pentothal (truth serum) before we question him. We shall shine the light of Bible truths squarely into Rollie's eyes. This should be revealing – and entertaining!



Me: Rollie, let's get right to it, shall we? Are the thoughts and intents of your heart continually evil?

Rollie: Yes sir, that describes me perfectly, and that comes from Genesis 6:5, right?

Me: Well, it's nice to know you know your Bible so well. What else do you know to be true about your heart, Rollie?

<u>Rollie</u>: Hmmm – well, I know my heart's deceitful and desperately wicked. Experience with other folks taught me that for a certainty, but then you told me that the Bible taught it too.

Me: Yep, that is Jeremiah 17:9. Don't you just love that expression, "desperately wicked", it's so expressive?

Rollie: No, sir. I don't like it at all, likely because it's my heart, as it is now, we are talking about. You can say your heart was once desperately wicked, but now God has changed your heart.

Me: My, you are so astute! I am born again, so my inclinations, by grace, are changed, but I am all too well aware that the remnants of my old nature remain. It remains, but it doesn't reign, thank God.

Rollie: One thing I regret, at times, is my being a good Bible student. I had such high hopes for my own righteousness, then you preached on Romans, Chapter 3, and my hopes were dashed.

Me: Ah, you are referring, likely, to "no one does good, no not one", right?

Rollie: Exactly, and the capper came when you read, "there is no fear of God before their eyes". In an instant I knew that all three of us, you, me, and God knew me as I was. I was embarrassed that you knew, frightened that God did, and I sighed. That I knew myself better was not a joy to me.

<u>Me</u>: I remember the blood drained from your cheeks. Let us turn this talk to another truth. Do you recognize that you're a captive of Satan? You are, as Satan might say, Satan's goods.



Rollie: I hate that idea. I like the idea that I'm my own man, being Satan's captive is depressing. Does the Bible actually say that?

Me: Yep, it's 2 Timothy 2:26. Paul writes, "That they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the Devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will."

Rollie: His will? I hate that idea, but, in truth, I do like his ways. Okay, I mean I love his ways. Do I choose his ways or is he guilty of what I do since I'm his captive?

Me: Both of you are guilty. But, I have some good/bad news for both of you, you will be treated justly by your Judge.

Rollie: That's precisely what I fear.

Me: Well, Rollie, mercy's door is open. No force is being applied to keep you in Satan's captivity. But, you love your captivity, don't you?

Rollie: (After pausing) Yes Sir, I love my ways, my darkness.

Me: So, you love your sin and hate the light?

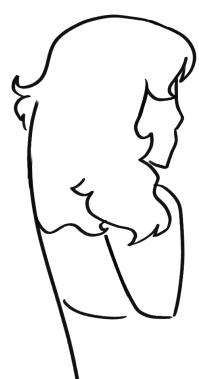
Rollie: Truthfully, I do.

<u>Me</u>: One final question, do you understand that you are dead in sin and that you will be tormented, in ways unimaginable, in a world without time, in the fire of God's wrath if you don't run to the remedy for you and all the other Rollies, the person and work of Jesus?

Rollie: (Sighingly) Yes, yes I do understand, but I still love who I am and the way I live. May I ask two things?

Me: Sure.

Rollie: Will you pray for me, and what time does Sunday school begin this Sunday?



Now you know more about all the Rollies you will encounter. Some will be short and some tall, some meek and some brash, some pretty and some not so pretty, some well-educated and some simply educated.

A man's resistance to light and truth should always be on your mind, even though he is unaware of it..

WHAT ABOUT ME, BILL?

- 1) You will often be nervous for sure. Conversing with folks about topics you are not used to conversing about will make anyone nervous. Relax, you will soon lose the nervousness, and you are defending God's truths. He will be with you, and He will be pleased with you. You would do well to remind yourself that Rollie and all Rollies have eternal souls. Never forget you once were Rollie.
- 2) You will, at first, and mostly forever, feel inadequate for the task set before you. Please listen closely to this: You are tasked with giving light only God can give life.
 - At times, God will use what you say to harden a heart, exactly the opposite of what you aimed at. Give light and leave the rest to your sovereign God.
- 3) You have likely been slack and deficient in both prayer and Bible study. So? So, change.
- 4) How about something I know that you don't. Okay, how about two things? New Atheists are primarily slogan-chuckers, and their best arguments are pitiful. Don't believe what I just said? Hang on, and I will prove it. You will soon learn why they fear real discussions.
- 5) Standing for God and His truths pleases Him who lived and died for you. God may utilize you to liberate a man or woman who is now Satan's captive.