

SEVEN EFFECTIVE WAYS TO APPROACH A KNOW-IT-ALL WORLD

Acts 17:33-34

From Paul's approach to the Athenians, we find some great pointers on how to approach a culture that takes itself far too seriously. The way to win some is to be **winsome**:

1. Watch for ways to find common ground (Acts 17:22-23).

Paul went where people were physically and began where they were intellectually.

2. Illuminate poor views of God (Acts 17:24-26).

Paul gently but firmly exposed the errant views of the Athenians. There *is* a knowable God. On that front they were wrong and needed correction.

3. Nurture that part of each person that wants to know God (Acts 17:27).

Paul knew that there is a God-built part of every person that wants to know God. When we talk to those who don't know God, we need to assume this and nurture it.

4. Study the world and its ways (Acts 17:28-30).

Paul was a student of the culture. Christians tend to isolate, insulate, run and hide, gather up in our holy huddle and avoid the world—their way of thinking, writing, singing, reasoning, influencing. We must learn to speak in a language that the world understands.

5. Offer the proof of Christianity—the Resurrection (Acts 17:31).

Paul spoke of the Resurrection. Christ's resurrection is the focal point of the faith, proving the central theme of Christianity. Without that fact we have no religion (1 Corinthians 15:13-14).

6. Make clear every person's accountability for his or her life (Acts 17:30-31).

Paul didn't mince words. There comes a time when folks need to be told of a life audit.

7. Expect a variety of responses (Acts 17:5-9, 13, 18-20, 32-34).

Paul received varied responses. Some will be jealous. Others will misrepresent what we are doing, accusing *us* of being troublemakers, agitating those we're trying to reach. But some will believe. And they are worth it!