



JUSTICE FOR ALL

Training Thousands to
Make Abortion Unthinkable for Millions,
One Person at a Time

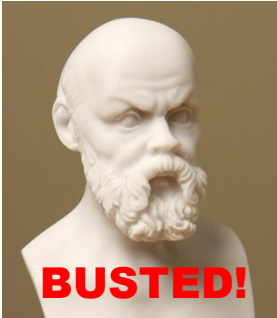
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SOCRATES BUSTED!



For centuries the Greek philosopher Socrates has been given credit for inventing the “Socratic Method.” One can see why; after all, it bears his name. However, this reporter has uncovered a startling fact. This popular method of revealing truth by asking questions had its genesis in more ancient times. A careful review

of the evidence should convince our readers that Socrates should be busted for simply popularizing an older tradition.

In a manuscript known as Genesis, which predates Socrates, we read that the Creator enlightens the first people on earth by asking them questions. After they disobey him, his side of the conversation sounds like this:

Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” ... He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ... Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” (Genesis 3:9-13)

Notice that God instructed the first couple by asking them questions. In this conversation God does not speak in declarative sentences until he issues judgment. One day we will stand before God, and he will ask us what we have done, and then he will pass judgment.

Later in Genesis, God instructs Cain, another member of the first family, in similar fashion:

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up?” ... Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” ... He said, “What have you done?” (Genesis 4:6-10)

Perhaps the quintessential illustration is the way God answers Job when Job accuses God of being unjust. God instructs Job the same way he instructed Adam and Eve and Cain—by asking questions—seventy-eight of them.

Often when we cry out to God for answers, he responds with questions—questions that leave us acknowledging the wisdom and power of God, and looking humbly in the mirror at ourselves.

God’s prophets continue this tradition of asking questions for generations until finally God’s own Son illustrates the method at a young age. When Jesus was still a boy, his parents “found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and *asking them questions*” (Luke 2:46).

None of us wants to be told what to do, much less what to think. We learn best when we discover truth for ourselves, especially when it comes to discovering our own faults and flaws, including the fact that we believe things that are false.

This is the beauty of using questions in dialogue. Questions force us to be honest with ourselves, to look at the inconsistencies in our character, our theology, and our lifestyle.

For example, back in March of this year, we spent a week in the city of Athens at the University of Georgia. I remember one day in particular because it rained all day long, and late in the day I began to feel that even my brain was water-logged. That afternoon I was in charge of taking pictures of our staff and trained students as they interacted with people around the Tate Student Center. I noticed that my fellow missionary, Jon Wagner, was locked in intimate conversation with a faculty member, Dr. Rich Suplita. The conversation must have gone on for hours, because every time I circled back by, I overheard Jon asking Dr. Suplita a different question. He was gentle and respectful, but he was also challenging, always balancing truth and love. With each pass, I heard another question and took another picture. Part of the reason I was so interested was that I had heard that Dr. Suplita was the



faculty advisor for the campus atheist club. As it turns out, this conversation that I was documenting had a back-story dating from March 2007, and it had an amazing culmination in the summer of 2011. Here are some high-



lights of the story in Jon's own words:

In 2007, I had engaged Rich with our poll question, "Should Abortion Stay Legal?" ... At a certain point the conversation turned, and we discussed our religious views. Rich was very clear that although he grew up around Christians, he was now not a Christian and frankly was disgusted with the church and with much of the Bible...

In our March 2011 conversation, I asked Rich if he still had the same concerns that he did four years ago. He said that he did but admitted that he hadn't really taken my advice and reviewed other perspectives, especially the foundational evidence of Christianity—the resurrection. He said he was advising the Atheist Club at UGA and [was] content not dedicating himself to any religion, much less Christianity. We talked extensively about his beliefs about truth, the existence of God, Christian culture, and Christ Himself.

I later reflected in my journal: "My discussion with Rich on Wednesday lasted for more than two hours! We discussed Christ's resurrection, [and] how the behaviors of many Christians make it harder for Rich to believe their faith is special... He agreed to keep in touch by email, and...he committed to study the best evidences for the resurrection and get back to me with his thoughts..."

The message came on Saturday, June 18.

"Rich here from the University of Georgia. I just wanted to drop you a brief message and let you

know that...I am to be baptized into Christ a week from tomorrow. I believe that our long discussion (and your willingness to listen without judgment and **ask thoughtful questions**)...played an important role in this process... I pray this is of some encouragement to you in the Lord."

During the training of his disciples, Jesus asked them, as he asks us, "But who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29). The defense of our faith lies in the answer to this question. The defense of the unborn lies in the answer to a similar question: "Who do you say that *they* are?"

It is in this spirit that we at Justice For All ask, "Who are the unborn?" Whether you think of it as Socratic Method or Godly guidance, we train our missionaries to teach the same way that wise teachers always have—with questions.

For more on how Justice For All teaches the art of asking questions and listening, visit www.jfaweb.org/WHAT.html, or to experience it in person, contact me to register for our training program at one of the following times.

Upcoming Public Training

- Sept. 11-14: Lawrence, Univ. of Kansas
- Oct. 2-4: Boulder, Univ. of Colorado
- Oct. 16-19: Edmond, Univ. of Central Oklahoma
- Oct. 23, 26-28: Stillwater, Oklahoma State Univ.
- Nov. 5-8: Denton, Univ. of North Texas

Support Report

My monthly level of support fluctuates as the seasons change. Older commitments run their course, and new folks join the team. If you receive this newsletter, please consider joining my financial support team by sponsoring a part of the \$650 per month which would complete my funding through next spring.

I offer my sincerest thanks and heart-felt gratitude to each of you who consider me your hands and feet. I am honored to have been sent by you. Thank you!

-John Michener

