



possibility to show Christian love and a good example. Who knows when this person will speak to a Christian next? This is your chance to be kind and lovable.

- Don't give the impression that you think you know everything, and all others can do is learn from you. This is never true.
- Don't focus on the negative alone. Begin with praise, or at least something positive about or to your opponent (Having to do with? Concerning?)
- If you are proven wrong on a specific point, accept and acknowledge it humbly. Be grateful that you learned something new.
- Stay on the topic – people will love you for that!
- Don't say everything you could say. There is always a limit to time and to your interventions. Sort out well and prioritize the many things you could say.

### **Understand the other and their concerns!**

- Try to see the world with the other's eyes. Sometimes we use the same words but mean very different things. Try to see where the other is coming from. Take them from there and do not ask too much at one time.
- Try to understand what your opponent means, even beyond the meaning of the words. What is he really getting at? This will help you to address the issue at stake without losing much time.
- Think about what could be right in your opponent's conviction. Point it out to him and explain what is wrong from there (Do this from your opponent's point of view or in your opponent's opinion.)

### **Choose convincing arguments!**

- Statistics say, after a couple of minutes hardly anyone remembers what a speaker has said. The audience only remembers whether the speaker was convincing or not.
- The question is unfortunately not so much: What arguments are intellectually the truest ones? Rather: What arguments will be most convincing? People don't think purely rationally. Emotions and associations play an important role.
- When you argue in a public debate, remember that you do not need to convince your opponent but your audience. They will agree with you, when they find you likable and your arguments intelligible, no matter what other members of your panel conclude.
- If you have to give complicated scientific arguments, try to explain them to your grandmother before the debate. Think of analogies and examples everyone can understand. ("The refrigerators in IVF clinics often contain more humans than an average town.")
- It is not enough to know much. The audience should learn how you gained this knowledge. ("When I worked in Africa, in my tenth year in the camp I realized...".) Incorporate this in the course of the debate and through your speech.
- When you touch upon "politically incorrect" matters, think carefully about your phrases and examples beforehand. Political Correctness is a method of thinking of the majority, and your effort is not to state the bare truth but to find a way to get around pre-established concepts of thinking. (Don't say, "Abortion is murder." Say, "Abortion stops a beating heart.")
- People love phrases and will remember them, such as "Jesus is the reason for the season. Of course we need Christmas symbols".
- A personal story of yourself or someone you know brings credibility. But don't overdo it because people get quickly fed up with stories and they want facts and figures.

### **Stay a Christian!**

- Pray for the one you talk to, for your audience. Before and after the discussion. After all, it is God who moves hearts and not your bright intellect.
- Appreciate the one you talk to, whom you are trying to lead a step further. Try to "love" your opponents and the audience more than your message! Debate is not about winning, but rather it is about helping people to see an aspect of Truth.