

A dark, atmospheric street view of a city, likely New York City, with tall buildings lining the street. A bus is visible in the foreground, and the text "ENGAGING CULTURE" is overlaid in white with a yellow horizontal bar behind it.

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SELF DEFEATING – TRUTH CLAIMS

“There is no such thing as absolute truth.”

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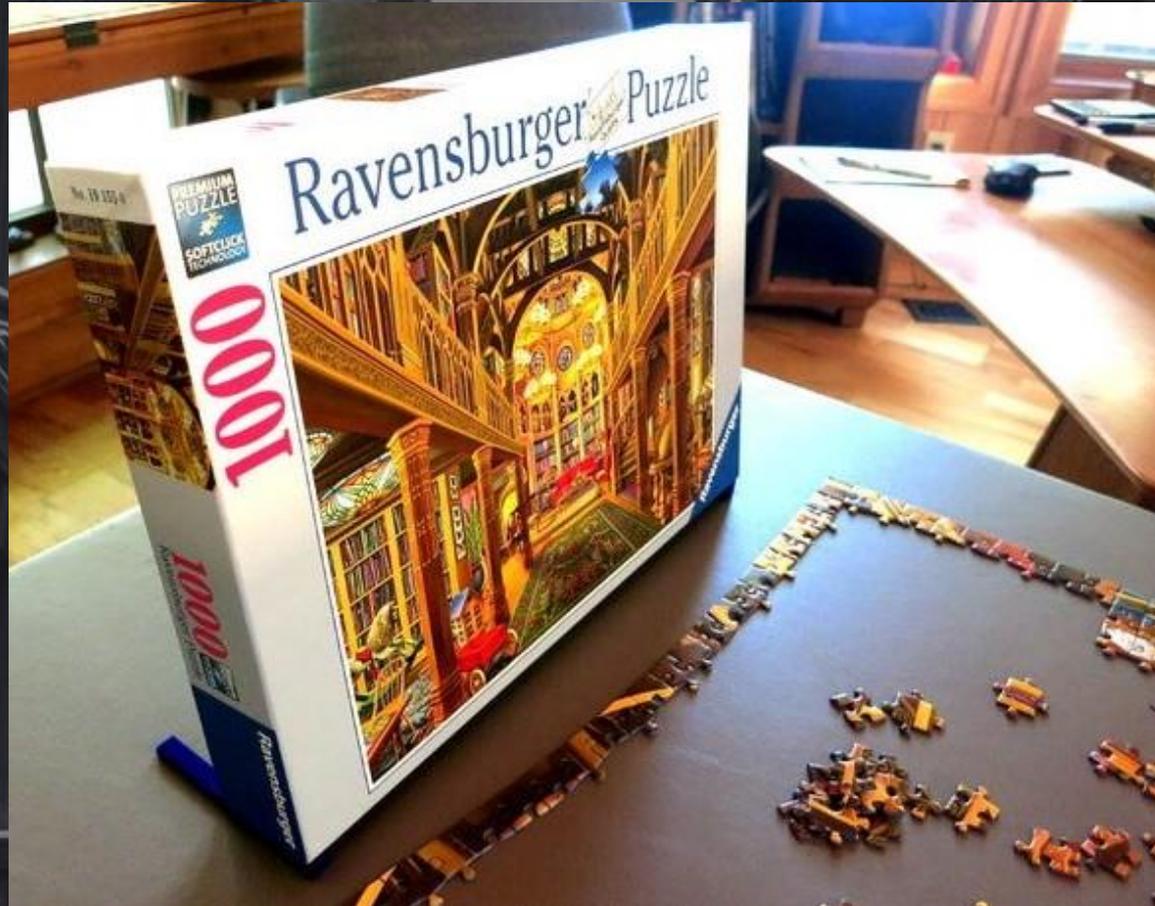
SELF DEFEATING – TRUTH CLAIMS

“There is no such thing as absolute truth.”

“culture is made up of “commanding truths” which define the “shoulds” and “should nots” of our experience. . . culture is system of truth claims and moral obligations.”

James Davidson Hunter *“To Change the World”*

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Evangelism in a Post-Christian Society

1. Focus on one of two anchors: The authority of scripture, and the Resurrection of Jesus.



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Evangelism in a Post-Christian Society

1. Focus on one of two anchors: The authority of scripture, and the Resurrection of Jesus.
2. Your approach should always adjust to the person's cultural context.



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⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

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⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"

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¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

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¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship."

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²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

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25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things."

26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

28 . . . So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people,

29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"

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⁸ And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked.

⁹ This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed,

¹⁰ said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

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¹¹ Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"

¹² And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

¹³ Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.

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14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out

15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,

16 "who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways.

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17 "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

18 And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

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Evangelism in a Post-Christian Society

1. Focus on one of two anchors: The authority of scripture, and the Resurrection of Jesus.
2. Your approach should always adjust to the person's cultural context.
3. Sometimes the best approach is to pose questions that deconstruct a faulty worldview.

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Deconstructing Harmful Worldviews

Planting Seeds of Doubt

1. What do you mean by that?
2. How do you know that is true?
3. Where do you get your information?
4. What happens if you are wrong?

4 Questions Taken from Jeff Meyers at Summit Ministries

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“There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit . . . Next to the blessed sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses.”

*C.S. Lewis “The Weight of Glory
and Other Addresses”*