

pect that maybe she isn't very interested in you. God sent you sixty-six letters and you rarely read them. What should He conclude about your love for Him?"

Encourage the person to examine himself to see if he is in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). If there are no signs that he has been born again, if there is no fruit in his life to indicate that he is a child of God, ask, "Do you consider yourself to be a good person?" If he says yes, something is radically wrong, and you should take him through the Law.

The Place of Apologetics

While apologetics (defense of the faith) play an important part in evangelism, it's vital to realize that they have a limited function in reaching the lost. If we confine our witness to arguing about the existence of God, the inspiration of Scripture, the age of the earth, etc., we are like a man who goes fishing with bait, but no hook. While he may attract the fish, they will end up fat and happy... and they will get away. The function of bait is to attract the fish and disguise the hook. When the fish come around, the fisherman pulls the hook into the jaw, and catches his fish. Apologetics are the bait, and the hook is God's Law. It is the Law that appeals to a man's conscience and brings the knowledge of sin.

Hell-fire Preaching

It's important to realize that when we talk about the Law and the reality of hell and Judgment Day, we aren't referring to "hell-fire preaching." Hell-fire preaching will produce fear-filled converts. Using God's Law will produce tear-filled converts. Those who hear only the message of hell, without the Law to make it reasonable, come to Christ because they want to escape the fires of hell. But in their heart, they think God is harsh and unjust, because the Law hasn't been used to show them the exceedingly sinful nature of sin. They don't see that they *deserve* eternal damnation, that hell is their just dessert.