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Tactics

If we were to view those who are lost as captives in a war, pressed into service. Our job changes from conquistador to liberator and we are able to serve at the same time we are slicing through all the obstructions that are between this person and a clear view of Christ.

As a liberator, our tactics are more like a surgeon, whose primary job is to strategically break the body so that it may heal back the way God intended. As a surgeon wields his scalpel carefully and precisely, we, too, wield our swords of God's Word and our sanctified minds which are thinking ever clearer as we grow closer to the source of our reasoningⁱ, carefully and precisely in order to cut away the ideas and beliefs that set themselves up against the knowledge of Christⁱⁱ.

Our role as liberators and careful surgeons can be best described as being an ambassador of the Kingⁱⁱⁱ. It's from this perspective we can learn what our character and conduct are supposed to be on the field of battle as we represent our King in the face of the enemy.

Character

- Servant
 - The nature of our arguments and speech ought to be directed at serving both God as well as those we are attempting to persuade.^{iv}
 - True service requires that we get on the level of the one we are trying to serve.
 - We wash the feet of those we talk to by taking the time to walk with them through their beliefs and ideas.^v
- Humble
 - Humility dictates that we care more about the person than we do the argument, including the conclusion.
 - Humility means that I can't take the moral high ground when I realize that I am just as much of a sinner as they are.
- Patient
 - Battles are rarely won quickly or even decisively. Patience is needed because if we expect to receive fruit every time we walk out into the field, we will get discouraged.



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- When we realize that the battle we are fighting has been raging before we got here and will probably continue long after we are gone. We are freed from the “hero complex” of needing to charge every hill and destroy every argument or declare every truth.^{vi}
- Christ chose us while we were still sinners^{vii}, and persisted after our hearts despite our refusal of Him. When we are tempted to give up and move on, we would do well to remember the tenacity God showed in his pursuit of us.
- People walked away from Christ when he spoke to them^{viii} and since no servant is greater than their master^{ix}, we should expect no less.
- Unyielding
 - Ambassadors were seen as though they were those they represented in ancient times.
 - We must not shy away from conflict or compromise merely to quell an argument.^x
- Loving
 - The best arguments in the world, and the most eloquent presentation of the facts are completely useless without love.^{xi}
 - Love itself can be a weapon when it is used in place of retaliation.^{xii}

Conduct

- Ask questions
 - Jesus answered almost all questions asked of him with another question^{xiii}
 - Jesus practiced what was known as “Rabbinical Questioning”^{xiv} which is designed to challenge the listener to think deeply about the subject or issue at hand.
 - The best way to continue a conversation is to be the one asking the questions
 - The one asking the most questions is really the one in the most control
 - Questions drive a conversation
 - Questions provide an avenue for learning and growth
 - Questions give the listener a safe retreat which helps to ease emotions.



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- Shine a light on the darkness^{xv}
 - As someone who is saved and being sanctified, I am closer to the source of logic and reason than someone who is still blinded by sin.^{xvi}
 - Since I can see in the dark, I have the privilege and responsibility to help guide those who are willing towards the light.^{xvii}
 - I may have to plow the heart of the person before I can sow any seed.^{xviii}

- Walk away and let God work
 - Since my goal is that of a simple witness, who is called to the stand for a brief time and summarily dismissed. I shouldn't expect to see any fruit from my encounters.^{xix}
 - When we linger or attempt to force the matter, we do violence to the Gospel and show our lack of faith in the Holy Spirit.

ⁱ Titus 1:1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

ⁱⁱ 2 Corinthians 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

ⁱⁱⁱ 2 Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

^{iv} Acts 17:4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

^v Exodus 30:21 They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout their generations."

^{vi} Matthew 13:35 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

^{vii} Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

^{viii} John 6:66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

^{ix} John 13:16 Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.



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^x Proverbs 6:23 For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life.

^{xi} 1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

^{xii} Proverbs 25:21-22 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

^{xiii} Only 3 in 183 did he directly answer to be exact.

^{xiv} <http://www.christianitytoday.com/workplace/articles/rabbinicquestioning.html>

^{xv} Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

^{xvi} Job 24:13 There are those who rebel against the light, who do not know its ways or stay in its paths.

^{xvii} Isaiah 42:16 I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.

^{xviii} Jeremiah 4:3 This is what the LORD says to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem: "Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns.

^{xix} Matthew 25:24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed.