**HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**COURSE:** Relational Evangelism

**PROFESSOR:** John Hendee

**DEALING WITH ATHEISTS OR THOSE OF DIFFERENT BELIEFS:**

1. Pray for them.

2. Pray for wisdom.

3. Love them.

4. Don’t attack, ridicule, make fun of, belittle, or criticize them. How does that work when someone does that to you?

5. Show interest in them and their life.

6. Ask questions about them: life, family, work, interests.

7. Ask about their faith or religion or atheism.

8. How did they get involved with it?

9. What were the factors in their choosing their faith or atheism?

10. What does it do for them in their life?

11. What does their being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mean they have to do in their life, how they live their life?

12. Do they believe in life after death?

13. If yes, what is it and how do they get it? How can they know they will have it?

14. If no, what do they think happens when they die? What proof do they have of that being the case?

15. What are the most important points of their religion or atheism?

**Kennedy Question:** Have you ever had the opportunity to sit down and hear a serious presentation …

Most atheists arrived at being so because of:

* A personal crisis.
* A persona loss.
* A personal rejection.
* A personal life style which is contrary to what they know God would approve or accept. Living in sin and knowing that if they follow God they will have to give up their sin or be a hypocrite.
* The negative influence of a parent/s.
* Abuse in their life by someone who was a “person of faith” or such abuse caused them to doubt there being a God of love.
* The negative influence of a religious leader or church.
* Someone they thought was a hypocrite.
* A faith in God or religion being forced on them.
* Fear of not being able to live up to what they think God’s standards are so why even try.
* Not knowing the evidence for Jesus.
* The influence of another atheist, a book, a friend, etc.
* Fear of losing friends, status, positions, influence, etc.

The story of an atheist who had been abandoned by his father. Damaged his ability to believe in a heavenly Father.

### Romans 5:11

Living Bible –**“**Now we rejoice in our **wonderful new relationship with God** — all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in dying for our sins — making us **friends of God**.”