

5 Deadly Questions

These are effective questions to use when your ideas are being attacked, and/or when you wish to point out the errors in someone else's views.

- #1. What do you mean by that? The true weakness of an argument lays in the fuzzy definition of terms used. When someone makes a truth claim, ask this question.
- #2. How do you know that is true? Surprisingly, most people believe things for which they have absolutely no evidence. Try this question out on someone with strong opinions and be ready for a fascinating discussion.
- #3. Where do you get your information? When someone makes a radical claim, you should always ask detailed questions about how they know what they know. Before long you will get to the end of their knowledge and will be on even terms in the discussion.
- #4. What happens if you are wrong? It is one thing to claim a belief and yet another to stake your life on it. The most important question that can be asked in life is, "Where do you go when you die, and what happens if you are wrong?"

Thanks to Andrew Heister, Jeff Myers, & Mark Cahill for the four deadly questions which have been used for many years in the teaching at Summit Ministries (Colorado Springs, CO). As a frequent educator at Summit, Mark Cahill effectively explains these penetrating questions in this book. Mark Cahill, [One Thing You Can't Do In Heaven](#) (Bartlesville, OK: Genesis Publishing Group, 2004) 139-146.

