

## The “Suicide” Tactic – Views that Self-Destruct<sup>1</sup>

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*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 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.*

~ 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

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### Self-Destructing Views

- These ideas commit suicide by defeating **themselves**
- aka **self-refuting** or **self-defeating**
- There is no need to spend time or energy addressing views that destroy themselves
- Simply point out the problem and let it die on its own

### What is a Self-Destructing View?

- Every statement is about **something**
- Sometimes statements include **themselves** in what they refer to
- Self-refuting statements fail to meet their own **criteria/standard** of validity
- Basically, they prove themselves to be **false**
- Some self-refuting ideas are **obvious** but others are under the surface
- This tactic is based on the Law of Non-Contradiction (a rule of logic)
  - Contradictory statements cannot **both** be true at the same
  - All **self-destructing** views either express or entail contradictions
- Our goal is to **recognize** self-destructing statements, **expose** them, and **avoid** being caught off guard and taken in by them

### How to Recognize Contradictions

1. Apply the claim to **itself**.
2. Determine whether there is a **contradiction**.
  - a. Does the statement itself fail to live up to its own **standard**?
  - b. Do the same reasons that favor a view also **discredit** it?
  - c. If you assume the statement to be **true**, does it then prove to be false?
3. If so, the statement is self-destructing. **Point out** the contradiction.
  - a. Bonus points if you can do this with a question rather than a statement (Columbo)

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<sup>1</sup> Koukl, Greg. *Tactics: A game plan for discussing your Christian convictions*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

## Examples of Self-Destructing Views

All English sentences are false.

I can't think of anything to say.

I never, never repeat a word. Never.

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I wish I had an answer to that, because I'm tired of answering that question.

Only stupid people use insults.

I don't believe anything.

Everything is meaningless.

Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded.

## Self-Destructive Statements Encountered in Apologetics

There is no truth.

You can't know anything for sure.

No one can know any truth about religion.

There are no absolutes.

All truth is relative.

It's true for you but not for me.

That's just your view.

You can only know truth through experience.

It's arrogant to claim to have the truth.

Talking about God is meaningless.

Never take anyone's advice on this issue.

You should doubt everything.

God doesn't take sides.

The Bible is flawed because people make mistakes.

Only science gives reliable truth.

You shouldn't force your beliefs on others.

You shouldn't judge other people.

You should live and let live.

Who are you to say...?