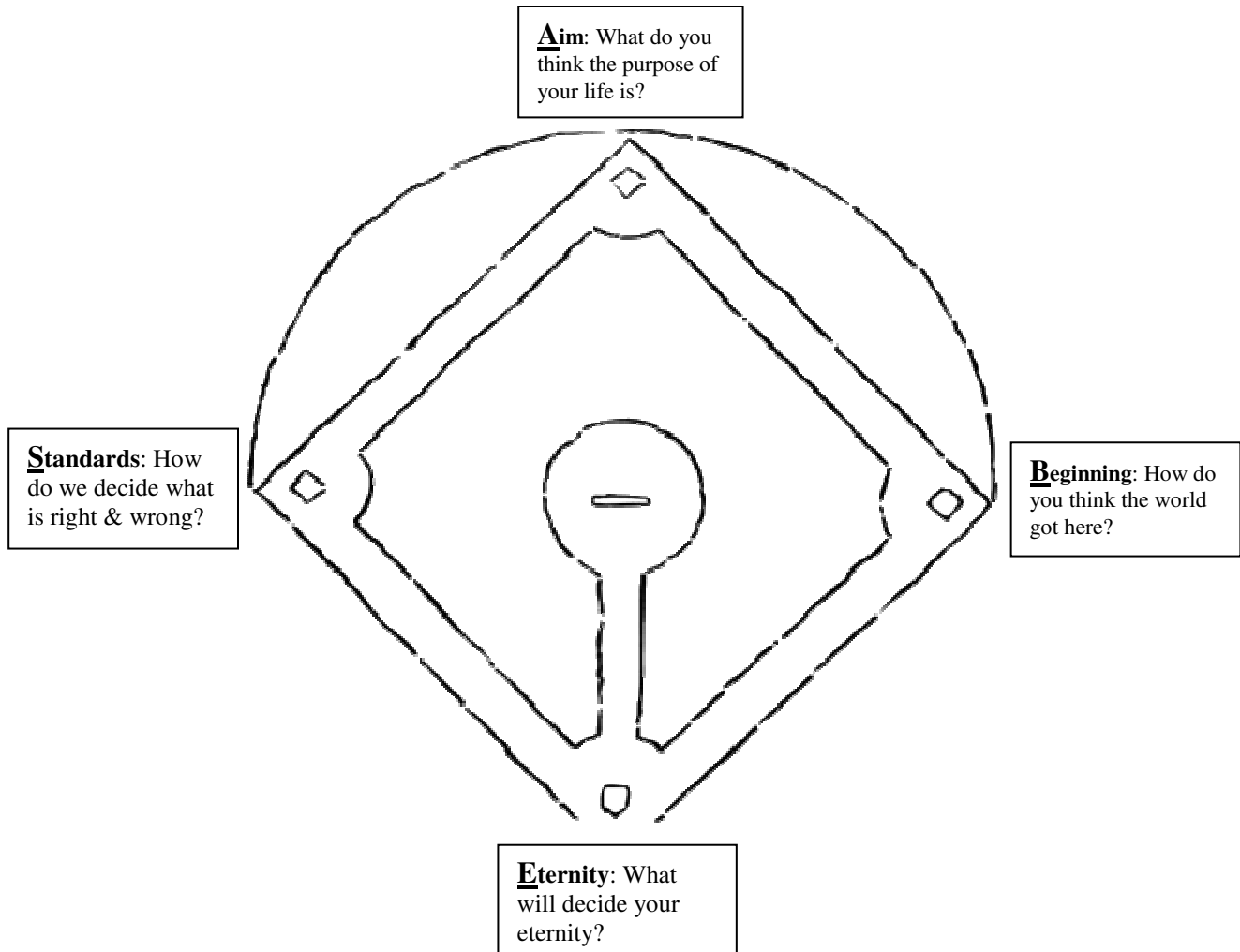


BASEBALL DIAMOND ILLUSTRATION FOR STARTING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS¹



¹ Source: Bob Walz during an August 25, 2013 Question And Answer Session In Minden, Nebraska.

When we talk about “standards,” often it can be helpful to take a person through the Ten Commandments and ask them, “Have you ever broken any of them, any of God’s standards?” The point here is to help the person see they are guilty, a sinner before God. If no earthly judge would allow a person to escape a myriad of law offences, how much more will the holy God of the universe not allow this (see Exodus 34:7; Romans 1:18-23; 6:23a)? Such an approach can help a person see they need to repent and to turn to the Savior, resting on him alone for salvation. This approach is developed by Ray Comfort, *The Way Of The Master*.

If a person is fairly moral, two approaches will help. First, if you take a person through the Ten Commandments, most will see they have in fact broken them and so you can use this to help them see the need for salvation. Second, take them to John 3:1-8, where Jesus tells a very moral man, Nicodemus (a Pharisee), that he must be born again. Staying in the book of John you can share with them how to respond (see John 3:16, 30; 5:24; 14:6; 20:31).

Finally, do not forget that the most important aspect of starting spiritual conversations is praying and asking the Lord to open up doors for us, to give us opportunities to share the gospel with others (Eph. 6:19-20; Col. 4:3-4).