

Our Cultural Moment

SESSION 1 – April 17, 2023 – Nate Schill

MAIN INTRODUCTION

- Good evening, thanks so much for coming... We are excited to go through another apologetics series of Our Cultural Moment with you, and we hope you are blessed as well.
 - Encourage you to take notes (Handouts)
 - All previous teachings and current sessions can be found on the CCQ Mobile App (search: “ccqtown”) as well as our website ... <https://ccquakertown.org/ocm>.

- Before we dig in to tonight’s first three points, we want to cover some initial ground as to why we are doing what we are doing. So first, a brief recap of Our Cultural Moment, then a summary of what we are doing.
 - **2020** – Cultural Marxism, Critical Theory, Social Justice, The Role of Government, and Bible Prophecy
 - **2021**- Biblical Wisdom and social media, the business model behind the platforms, as well as how it affects a person spiritually.
 - **2022** – Just when we thought the world system couldn’t get any crazier, we discussed what we learned since the Covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing warfare on words and identity, how wokeness enters the church, and Bible Prophecy 2.0.

- Why are we doing this?
 - Discipleship – 1 Peter 3:15 – “always be ready to give a defense (apologia) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you”
 - Equipping – Ephesians 4:12 – “equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”
 - Evangelism – Matthew 28:19-20 – “Go therefore and make disciples...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you”

- 12 Points That Show Christianity Is True (developed by Dr. Norm Geisler):
 - (1) **Truth about reality is knowable.**
 - (2) **Opposites cannot both be true.**
 - (3) **It is true that God exists.**
 - (4) Miracles are possible.
 - (5) Miracles confirm a message from God.
 - (6) The New Testament documents are reliable.

- (7) The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
- (8) Jesus's claim to be God miraculously confirmed.
- (9) Therefore, Jesus is God.
- (10) Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
- (11) Jesus taught the Bible is the Word of God.
- (12) Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God.

"TRUTH" INTRODUCTION

- Worldview Statistics¹
 - 65% of American adults self-identify as "Christian."
 - 51% believe they have a biblical worldview.
 - 6% actually have a biblical worldview.
- State of Theology²
 - 53% of US adults – the Bible is NOT literally true... *26% of evangelicals believe this.*
 - 38% of evangelicals – religious belief is matter of personal opinion; it is not about objective truth.

POINT # 1 – Truth about reality is knowable.

- What is truth?
 - The real world is our starting point.
 - Truth corresponds to reality.
 - Truth matches its object.
 - Truth is telling it like it is.
- Truth distinguishes the genuine from the counterfeit, fact from fiction, and moral from immoral.
- As well, "the truth" speaks not merely of "that which is true," but the ***standard itself*** by which all claims are measured.

VERSES ABOUT TRUTH

- John 4:23-24
- John 8:32
- John 8:43-44
- John 14:6
- John 16:13

¹ Center for Biblical Worldview, "Perceptions about Biblical Worldview and Its Application" (George Barna, Family Research Council), May 2021.

² Ligonier, "State of Theology 2022," <https://thestateoftheology.com>

- John 17:17
- Ephesians 6:14
- 1 John 1:8

POINT # 2 – Opposites cannot both be true.

- There are fundamental laws that govern our thoughts...
 - ***The Law of Non-Contradiction*** – A is not non-A.
 - God is not non-God.
 - ***The Law of Identity*** – A is A.
 - God is God.
 - ***The Law of Excluded Middle*** – Either A or non-A (but not both).
 - Either God or non-God (but not both).
- An example that opposites cannot both be true...
 - If it is true that God exists, then it is false that God does not exist.
 - If theism is true, then atheism is false (and vice versa).

POINT # 3 – It is true that God exists.

- Either a theistic God exists, or He does not.
- If theism is true, then Christianity can be true (Christianity is a theistic religion).
- Other views of God include:
 - (1) ***Deism*** – One infinite impersonal God exists, but miracles do not.
 - (2) ***Atheism*** – No God exists at all.
 - (3) ***Pantheism*** – God is all and all is God.
 - (4) ***Polytheism*** – Many finite Gods exist in the world. They did not create the world.

EVIDENCE FOR GOD'S EXISTENCE

- ***The Cosmological Argument For God (Creation Argument)***
 - (1) Whatever had a beginning, had a Beginner (Cause).
 - (2) The universe had a beginning.
 - (3) Therefore, the universe had a Beginner (Cause).
- ***The Teleological Argument For God (Design Argument)***
 - (1) The Anthropic Principle
 - 21% - level of oxygen in the air is just right for life
 - The sun is just the right distance from Earth
 - The gravitational force is just right for keeping us from flying into space
 - The nuclear force is just right to hold atoms together

- ***The Moral Argument For God***

(1) Every moral law has a moral law Giver.

(2) There is an objective moral law.

(3) Therefore, there must be an objective moral law Giver.

FINAL THOUGHTS / NOTES
