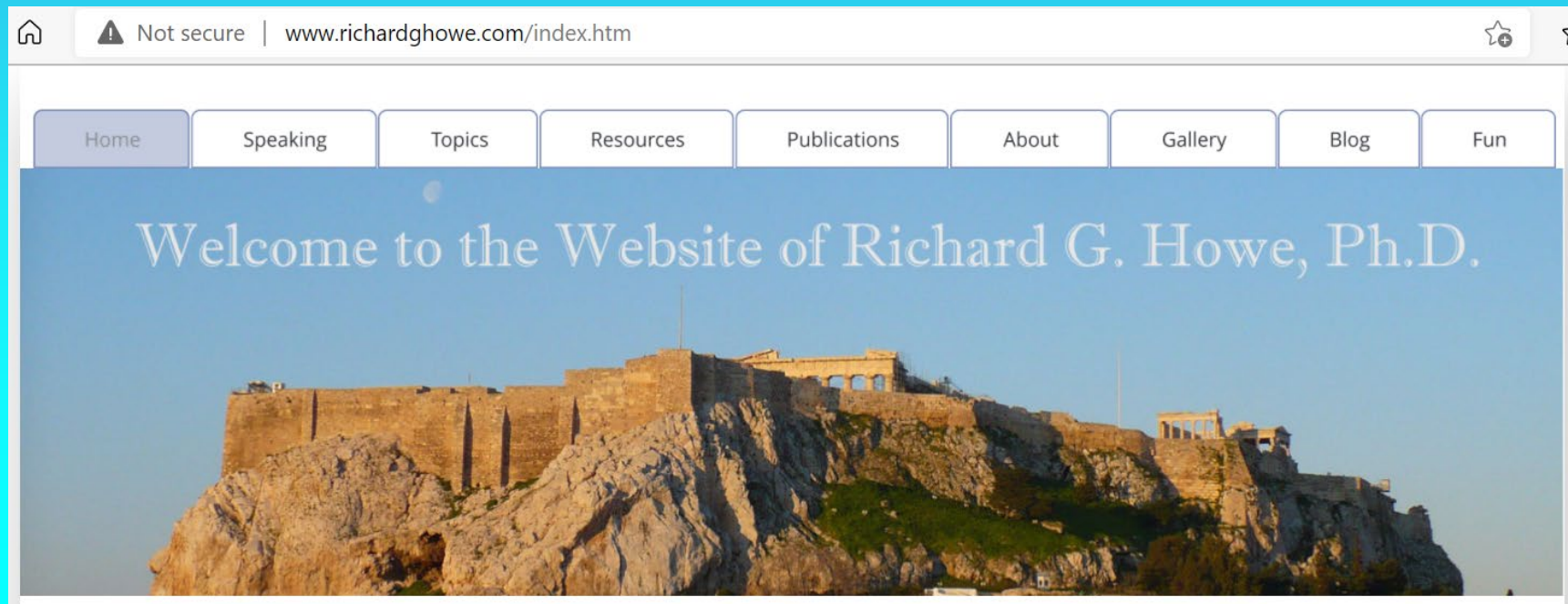


# ARMING APOLOGISTS #3: APOLOGETIC METHODS

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Athol Baptist Church

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- *Faith Has Its Reasons: Integrative Approaches to Defending the Christian Faith*
  - Kenneth D. Boa and Robert M. Bowman, Jr.



# COURSE OUTLINE

- Apologetic Methods
  - Evidential
  - Presuppositional
  - **Eclectic (Experiential)**
  - Classical

# COURSE OUTLINE

- **Examine**
  - **Definition**
  - **Founders**
  - **Methodology**
  - **Strengths**
  - **Weaknesses**
  - **Classical Connection**

# EVIDENTIAL APOLOGETICS

- Definition – use of tangible evidence to authenticate the truth claims of the Bible
  - Tangible – science, history, archaeology, etc.

# EVIDENTIAL APOLOGETICS

- Founders
  - Joseph Butler
  - James Orr
  - Richard Swinburne
  - Josh McDowell – *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*
  - John Warwick Montgomery – *Faith Founded on Fact*

# EVIDENTIAL APOLOGETICS

- Methodology
  - Prescriptive
  - Utilization of specific evidence to answer the doubts/questions of opponents of the faith

# EVIDENTIAL APOLOGETICS

- Strengths
  - Scientific society
  - Facts
    - Compelling
    - Unbiased



# EVIDENTIAL APOLOGETICS

- Weaknesses
  - Dueling Facts
  - Post-modern society
  - Necessity of Faith – Hebrews 11

# EVIDENTIAL APOLOGETICS

- Classical Connection
  - Teleological Demonstration
  - Authentication of God's messengers
  - New Testament Reliability

# PRESUPPOSITIONAL APOLOGETICS

- Definition – premise that without an acceptance of God's revelation as true, then a person remains lost and unable to actually comprehend truth

# PRESUPPOSITIONAL APOLOGETICS

- Founders
  - John Calvin – *Concerning Scandals*
  - Cornelius Van Til – *Christian Apologetics*
  - Greg Bahnsen

# PRESUPPOSITIONAL APOLOGETICS

- Methodology
  - Presuppositional
  - Attacks the presuppositions of the opponents worldview, stands firmly on God's revelation

# PRESUPPOSITIONAL APOLOGETICS

- Strengths
  - Rock solid on God's revelation as the ultimate authority and basis for all truth

# PRESUPPOSITIONAL APOLOGETICS

- Weaknesses
  - Illogical
  - Inconsistent
  - Arrogant
  - Aeropagus – Acts 17:19-34

# PRESUPPOSITIONAL APOLOGETICS

- Classical Connection
  - Moral Demonstration
  - Dr. Jason Lisle – *Ultimate Proof of Creation*



# ECLECTIC APOLOGETICS

- Definition – use of either experience, or prescribed answers, in an attempt to defend God, the Bible, or other aspects of Christianity
  - Opponent's destination vice an apologist's direction
  - Fideism – Faith Alone

# ECLECTIC APOLOGETICS

- Founders
  - Tertullian - *Apologeticum*
  - Soren Kierkegaard
  - C. Stephen Evans – *Faith Beyond Reason*
  - Scope's Monkey Trial

# ECLECTIC APOLOGETICS

- Methodology
  - Puzzling
  - Attempt to utilize experience, or prescribed answers in response to the opponent's challenge or doubt without plan or strategy

# ECLECTIC APOLOGETICS

- Strengths
  - Personal
  - Potentially very passionate & earnest

# ECLECTIC APOLOGETICS

- Weaknesses
  - No strategy
    - Proverbs 16:1
  - No preparation
    - 2 Timothy 2:15

# ECLECTIC APOLOGETICS

- Classical Connection
  - Exemplification

# CLASSICAL APOLOGETICS

- Definition – use of philosophy and deductive reasoning to demonstrate the validity of the Bible's truth claims

# CLASSICAL APOLOGETICS

- Founders
  - Thomas Aquinas
  - C. S. Lewis - various
  - Norman Geisler
  - William Lane Craig
  - R. C. Sproul – Classical Apologetics



# CLASSICAL APOLOGETICS

- Methodology
  - Philosophical principles
  - Engagement
  - Explanation
    - Deductive Reasoning
    - Philosophy
    - Evidence
    - Biblical Foundation
  - Exemplification

# CLASSICAL APOLOGETICS

- Strengths
  - 37 Lessons

# CLASSICAL APOLOGETICS

- Weaknesses
  - Lack of philosophical thinking
  - Elitist Perception

# CLASSICAL APOLOGETICS

- Classical Connection – 37 weeks of learning

# ENDING EXHORTATION

- TRUTH MATTERS

- “The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him . God is Spirit, and those who worship Him ***must*** worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24 NKJV

# QUESTIONS?

- On line Arm in g Ap o l o g i s t s
- Book Order
- 37 to go....
- Thank you

# ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 3:

## APOLOGETIC METHODS

### Evidential Apologetics:

Utilizes \_\_\_\_\_ to defend God's truth.

It is \_\_\_\_\_ with specific answers for various questions.

Its primary strength lies within the \_\_\_\_\_ of facts.

Its fundamental weakness involves the inevitability of \_\_\_\_\_ facts.

### Presuppositional Apologetics:

Demands \_\_\_\_\_ of God's truth as the pre-condition of knowledge.

It is \_\_\_\_\_ with biases as the foundational issue of contention.

Its primary strength lies within its \_\_\_\_\_ on God's revelation.

Its fundamental weakness includes its unavoidable \_\_\_\_\_.

### Eclectic Apologetics:

Provides \_\_\_\_\_ to defend God's truth.

It is \_\_\_\_\_ because it lacks structure and direction.

Its primary strength lies within its potential for \_\_\_\_\_.

Its fundamental weakness – isolating \_\_\_\_\_ from facts and reason.

Classical Apologetics:

Demonstrates God's truth through a foundation of \_\_\_\_\_.

It is \_\_\_\_\_ using reasoning and principles to engage skeptics.

Its primary strength lies within its \_\_\_\_\_ to biblical directives.

Its fundamental weakness is imagined to be its \_\_\_\_\_.



# ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 3: APOLOGETIC METHODS HOMEWORK

1. Does apologetics really require a methodology? Won't God ensure I speak His truth i.e. Luke 10:8-12? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How do passages like Proverbs 16:1 & 21:31 relate to apologetics? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. The apostle Paul's interaction with the unbeliever's at Aeropagus demonstrates the need to engage unbelievers with their worldview as the doorway. What unbelieving genre have I been called to engage? How am I preparing to "open the door" to the Gospel presentation? \_\_\_\_\_

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Notecards:

1 – Spirit & Truth / John 4:21-26 \_\_\_\_\_

2 – Truth Matters / \_\_\_\_\_