

ARMING APOLOGISTS #2: ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH

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COURSE OUTLINE

- Homework
- Define our Terms
- Delineate the Essentials
- Discuss some Non-essentials

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Dr. Norman Geisler
 - The Essentials of the Faith
 - Youtube.com



Dr. Norman Geisler-The Essentials of the Faith

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GUIDE POST

- “In essentials, unity;
in non-essentials, liberty;
and in all things, charity.”

Rupertus Meklenius

WHAT IS UNITY?

- Uniformity – complete similarity in ritual and rationale
 - Catholicism
- Union – corporate affiliation without individual agreement
 - Ecumenism

WHAT IS UNITY?

- Unity – oneness of heart & heading based on a common interest (Body of Christ)
- “Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are.*” *John 17:11 NKJV*

WHAT IS ESSENTIAL?

The Gospel

WHAT IS ESSENTIAL?

- “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

WHAT IS ESSENTIAL?

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.” *1 Corinthians 15:1-5 NKJV*

ACCURACY 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*

GOSPEL TRUTHS

- Three aspects of The Gospel
 - Salvation – saved from the penalty of sin
 - declared us righteous positionally (Romans 3-5)
 - Sanctification – being saved from the power of sin
 - developing us righteous progressively (Romans 6-7)
 - Glorification – will be saved from the presence of sin
 - will dignify us righteous permanently (Romans 8)

APOLOGETICS AIM

- Purpose
 - Engage, Explain, & Exemplify
- Salvation aspects of the Gospel
- Diagnostic Evaluation
- Implicit Belief without Explicit Disbelief

I – GOD’S UNITY

- There is one God
- Logical definition of a God
- “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!”
Deuteronomy 6:4

2 – HUMAN DEPRAVITY

- We are sinners
 - Romans 1-3
- Immorality precedes immortality
 - Apathetic
 - Ignorant
 - Denial

2 – HUMAN DEPRAVITY

- “As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one...There is no fear of God before their eyes...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” *Romans 3:10-23 NJKV*



3 – NECESSITY OF GRACE

- We are saved by God's grace
 - Throughout every epoch & era
- Unique aspect of Christianity
- “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV

4 – CHRIST'S DEITY

- Jesus the Christ is God
- Jesus the Christ claimed to be God
- Necessary link to the virgin birth & the Trinity
- “Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” *John 8:58 NKJV*
- Exodus 3:14

5 – CHRIST'S HUMANITY

- Jesus the Christ is Fully Human
- Jesus' dual nature must be declared, not distorted
- “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men,
the Man Christ Jesus” *1 Timothy 2:5 NKJV*
- “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” *John 1:14 NKJV*

6 – CHRIST’S ATONING DEATH

- Christ died for our sins
- Necessity of God’s purity & perfection
- “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” *2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV*
- Eternal Assurance – Hebrews 10

7 – CHRIST'S BODILY RESURRECTION

- Christ rose from the dead
- Arguably one of the most attested events from antiquity
- “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:9 NKJV

7 – CHRIST’S BODILY RESURRECTION

- “If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!” *2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV*

8 – NECESSITY OF FAITH

- We must believe God
- God's chosen vehicle of grace from the foundation of the world
- “By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice...without faith it is impossible to please Him [God].” *Hebrews 11:4&6 NKJV*
- “And he [Abraham] believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.” *Genesis 15:6 NKJV*

9 – BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

- Impossible to be consistent without this belief
- Inspired, Inerrant, & Infallible
- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

WHAT IS NON-ESSENTIAL?

- Two Common Errors:
- **Liberalism**
 - Not uniting over Essentials – *Minoring in the majors*
- **Fundamentalism**
 - Dividing over Non-Essentials – *Majoring in the minors*

WHAT IS NON-ESSENTIAL?

- Age of the Earth
 - Young or Old
- Form of Church Government
 - Congregational, Presbyterian, or Episcopalian
- Mode of Baptism
 - Immersion, Sprinkling, or Pouring

WHAT IS NON-ESSENTIAL?

- Name of church
 - Cool or Categorical
- Type of Music
 - Traditional or Radical
- Day of Worship
 - Sunday - Saturday

WHAT IS NON-ESSENTIAL?

- Time of Second Advent
 - Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib, or Post-Trib
- Gifts of the Spirit
 - Fruits over the gifts Galatians 5:22
- Soteriology of God
 - Calvinism vs Provisionism vs Arminianism vs ???

ENDING EXHORTATION

- “In essentials, unity;
in non-essentials, liberty;
and in all things, charity.”

Rupertus Meklenius

QUESTIONS?

- Week 3 – Book Order
 - 2 for 38
- Thank you