ARMING APOLOGISTS #6: FUNDAMENTAL LAW
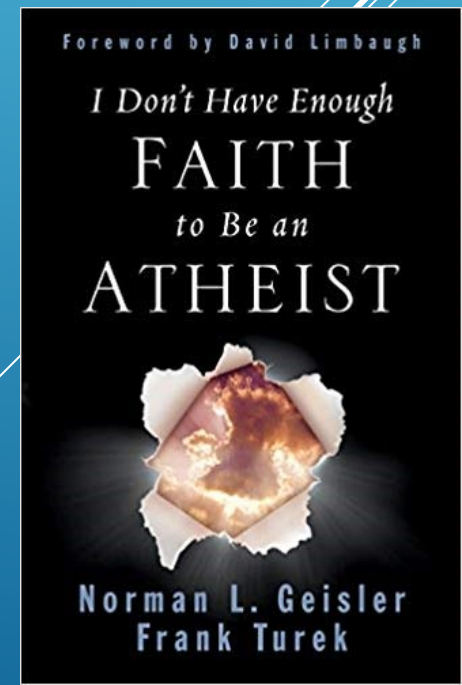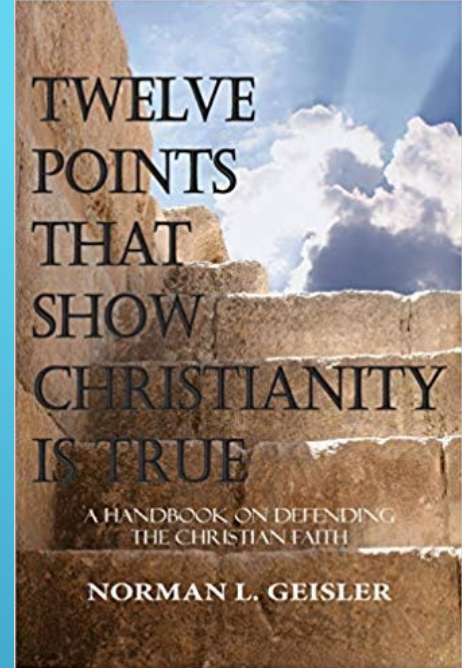
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Athol Baptist Church

COURSE OUTLINE

- Questions?
- Engagement Review
- Fundamental Law of Logic

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Southern Evangelical Seminary
  - Dr. Norman Geisler, et al
- *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist*
  - Dr. Norman Geisler & Dr. Frank Turek
- *Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True*
  - Dr. Norman Geisler (& Dr. Douglas Potter)

ENGAGEMENT REVIEW

- MAXIM: Establish Truth
- Philosophical Apologetics
- Sound Philosophy
  - Truth
  - Fundamental Law of Logic

SELF EVIDENT TRUTHS

- Statement – Subject = Predicate
- *12 Steps*, Geisler, p11-12
  - All circles are round
  - All husbands are married men
- Richard is funny

FUNDAMENTAL LAW

▶ Apologetic Context

▶ Law of Non-contradiction

  ▶ "The most fundamental law of all thought is the Law of Non-Contradiction. It states that something cannot be both true and false at the same time and in the same sense."

  12 Steps, Geisler, p11

NECESSARY CONFIRMATION

- Sole law of logic requiring confirmation for apologetics
- Various Laws of Logic still utilized
- "Horns of the dilemma"

MAGTF EXAMPLE
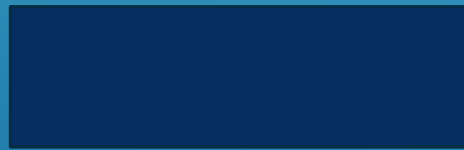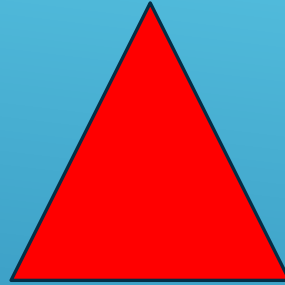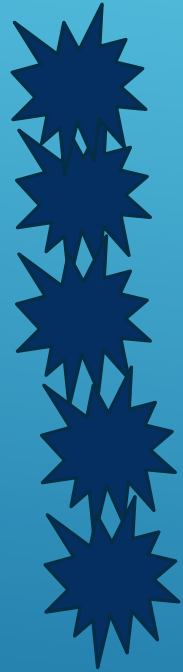
REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

- Apple and not an apple
- $100 bill & a penny
- Non-ethanol gasoline & vegetable oil
- Sushi & fried bologna

EFFECTIVE EXAMPLE

▶ Arabic Philosopher, Avicenna

▶ Those who deny the first principle [Law of Non-Contradiction] should be flogged or burned until they admit that it is not the same thing to be burned and not burned, or whipped and not whipped.

12 Steps, Geisler, p12

LAW OF NC MAXIMIZATION

- IOT maximize Law of Non-Contradiction
- Opposites (Merriam Webster Online):
  - 2a: occupying an opposing and often antagonistic position
  - 2b: diametrically different (as in nature or character)
  - 3: contrary to one another or to a thing specified

OPPOSITES

- For some opposites, one must be true
  - Day / Night
  - Theism / Atheism
  - Believer / Non-believer
  - "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad" (Matthew 12:30 NKJV)

APOLOGETICAL DIFFICULTY

▸ Religions seem to be more about divergent opinions than direct opposites

▸ Challenge is discerning:

  ▸ True system with some errors

  ▸ Erroneous systems with some truths

APOLOGETIC DISCERNMENT

▸ Key lies in an assessment of the core doctrines

▸ For Christianity, the Essential Doctrines are the metric

  ▸ God is one or God is many

  ▸ Humans need salvation or they do not

  ▸ Salvation comes through God's gift or man's work

  ▸ Jesus is fully God and fully man or either man or God

APOLOGETIC DISCERNMENT

▸ For Christianity, the Essential Doctrines are the metric

  ▸ Grace is funneled via faith or works

  ▸ Christ's death on the cross fully saves believing humanity from death or it does not

  ▸ Christ rose from the dead or He did not

CONTRADICT

THEY CAN'T ALL BE TRUE–JOHN 14:6
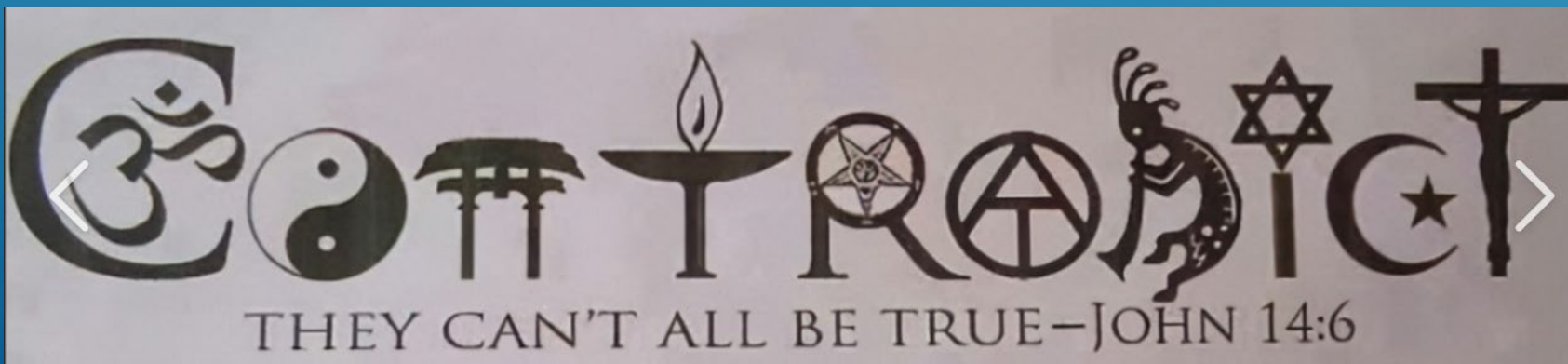
ENGAGEMENT GOAL

- Victory achieved at this stage:
  - We might all be false, but we **<u>cannot</u>** all be true
- Time to launch into Theistic Apologetics:
  - One foot planted on tenets of Truth
  - One foot planted on Law of Non-Contradiction

ENDING EXHORTATION

▶ There *is no neutrality* when it comes to Jesus the Christ

▶ "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad" (Matthew 12:30)

▶ "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6)

▶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth" (Revelation 3:16)

- 34 to go
- 2+ months of Logic
- Thank you

QUESTIONS?

Arming Apologists Lesson 6:
Fundamental Law

What are self-evident truths? _____

_____

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_____

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_____

What is the fundamental law of logic? _____

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Why does the Law of Non-Contradiction require confirmation? _____

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What does it mean for something to be an opposite? _____

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How does one discern a "true system with some errors" from an "erroneous system
with some truths"? _____

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What are the elements of victory for establishing the common ground of sound
philosophy? _____

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ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 6: FUNDAMENTAL LAW HOMEWORK

Reread Chapter 1 of *Twelve Steps* _____

Read Chapter 2 of *Twelve Steps* _____

1. How would you open the conversation to discern whether one stood upon sound philosophy?

_____

_____

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_____

2. Can you think of three examples of self-evident truth from your real life experience to use in apologetics? _____

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3. How will you explain the Law of Non-Contradiction with real world examples? _____

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4. Which two essentials of the faith do you feel are the easiest to illustrate the Law of Non-Contradiction to an opponent of the faith? Why? _____

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5. In an examination of Theism (there is a God) and Atheism (there is not a God), must one of them be true? Why or why not? _____

_____

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_____

6. Memory Work:

Rewrite the following:

      Maxim: Establish Truth

      _____

      _____

      Miracles: Demonstrate Theism

      _____

      _____

      Message: Proclaim Trinitarianism

      _____

      _____

Notecards:

        1 – There is no Neutrality / Matthew 12:30

        _____

        2 – Law of Non-Contradiction / definition & examples

        _____

        3 – Can all be wrong, but we can't all be right

        _____