

# ARMING APOLOGISTS #6: FUNDAMENTAL LAW

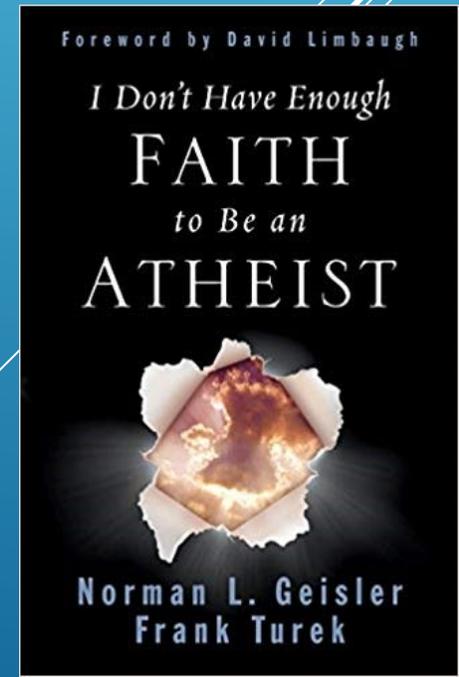
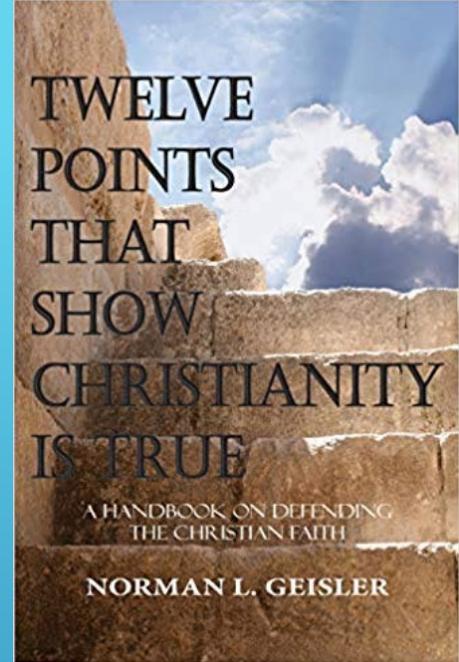
Pastor Richard Alderson  
Athol Baptist Church

# COURSE OUTLINE

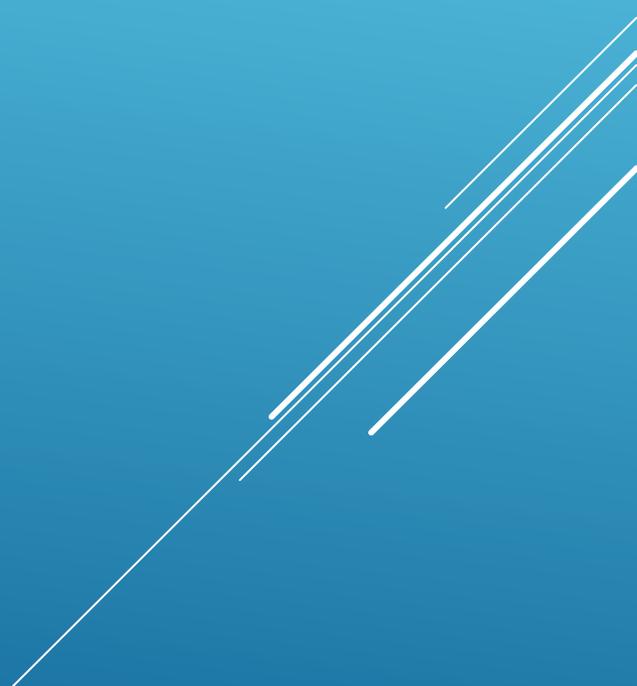
- ▶ Questions?
  - ▶ Engagement Review
  - ▶ Fundamental Law of Logic
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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ▶ 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
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# SELF EVIDENT TRUTHS

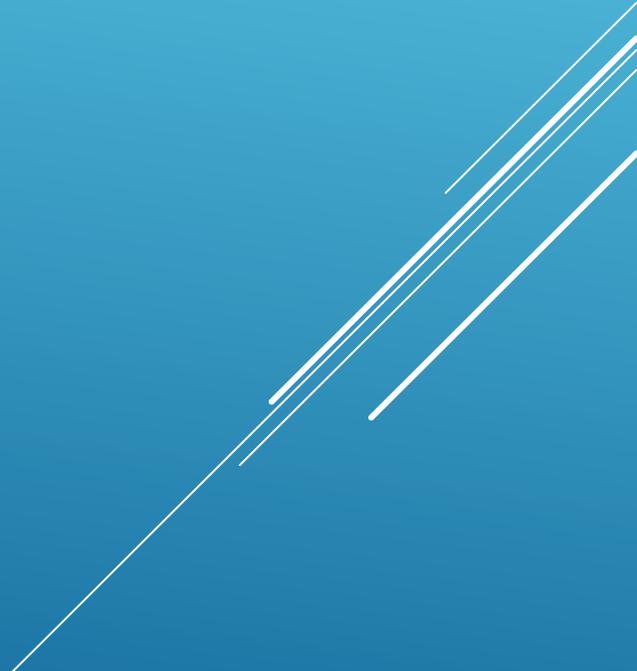
- ▶ Statement – Subject = Predicate
- ▶ *12 Steps*, Geisler, p11-12
  - ▶ All circles are round
  - ▶ All husbands are married men
- ▶ Richard is funny

# FUNDAMENTAL LAW

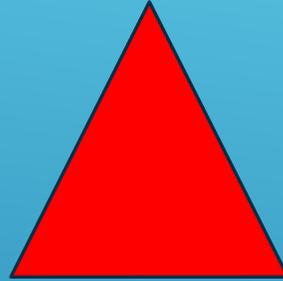
- ▶ Apologetic Context
- ▶ Law of Non-contradiction
  - ▶ “The most fundamental law of all thought is the Law of Non-Contradiction. It states that something cannot be both true and false at the same time and in the same sense.”

*12 Steps, Geisler, p11*

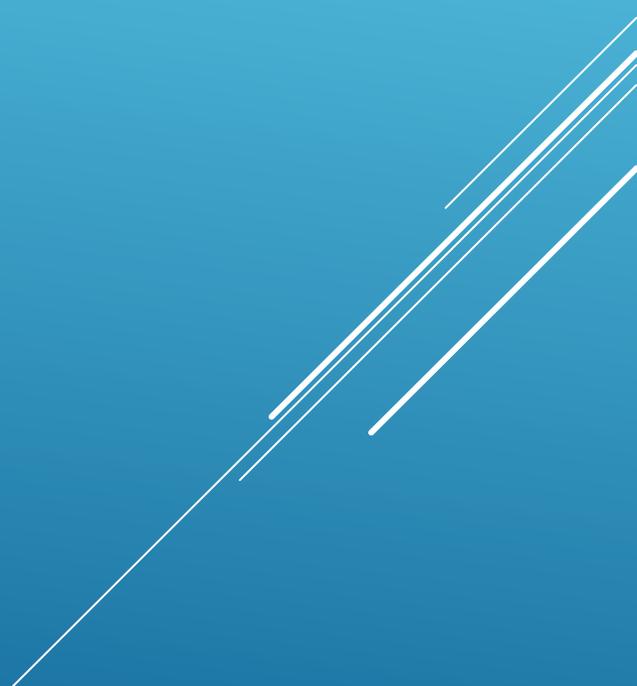
# NECESSARY CONFIRMATION

- ▶ Sole law of logic requiring confirmation for apologetics
  - ▶ Various Laws of Logic still utilized
  - ▶ “Horns of the dilemma”
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# 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

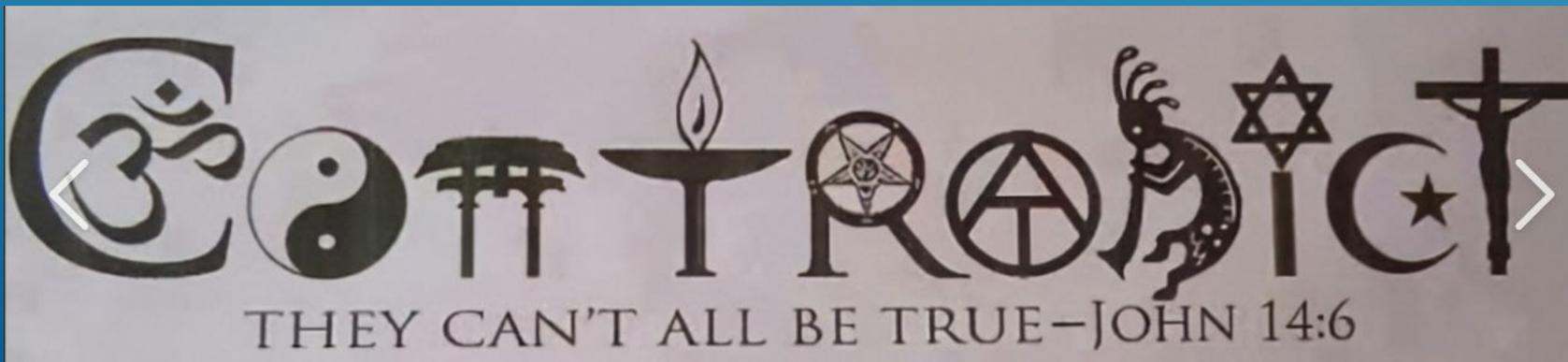


# APOLOGETIC DISCERNMENT

- ▶ 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



# ENGAGEMENT GOAL

- ▶ Victory achieved at this stage:
    - ▶ We might all be false, but we cannot 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?