

1 Peter 3:14-16

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, <u>always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;</u> yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

...always being prepared to make a <u>defense</u> to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...

Defense - άπολογίαν (apologia)

An Overview of Apologetics

- What is Apologetics a Biblical doctrine of defending the faith
- Worldviews The Presuppositional Apologetic
- Evaluating Methods Evidentialist
- Evaluating Methods Classical
- Apologetics in Action

Sources

- Anderson, James N. "Christian Apologetics." Reformed Theological Seminary audio lectures.
- Frame, John. "Apologetics: A Justification of Christian Belief." Philipsburg: P&R Publishers, 2015.
- Lisle, Jason. "The Ultimate Proof of Creation: Resolving the Origins Debate." Green Forest: Master Books, 2017.

What is Apologetics

- Defense ἀπολογίαν (apologia)
 - Reasoned defense of the faith

"...the discipline that teaches Christians how to give a reason for their hope" – John Frame

"[1 Peter 3:15] indicates that we should indeed have a *reason* for our faith." - Jason Lisle

"But apologetics is also the application of Scripture to unbelief." - Joseph E. Torres

Three Perspectives of Apologetics

- Apologetics as Proof
 - Proving Christianity to be true (or reasonable)
 - Example: arguments from design
- Apologetics as Defense
 - Countering reasons that Christianity is false
 - Example: answering the problem of evil
- Apologetics as Offense
 - Offering reasons to believe that a non-Christian worldview is wrong
 - Example: atheism cannot provide objective moral values

What is the Purpose of Apologetics?

- To Glorify God
 - "The righteous... declare that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him." – Psalm 92:12-15
 - "...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy..." 1 Peter 3:15

"To put it another way, 'You are not your own, for you were brought with a price. So glorify God in your body' (1 Cor. 6:19-20). A person who truly trusts in Christ has given up every other loyalty in order to be loyal to Christ alone... A true disciple is never 'off duty.'" – Vern Poythress

What is the Purpose of Apologetics?

- To Edify and Build Up the Believers
 - "For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." 1 Corinthians 1:22-24
 - "For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.
 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong." 1 Corinthians 1:26-27

What is the Purpose of Apologetics?

A Form of Evangelism

- "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." – 1 Peter 2:9
- And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind." But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe." And Agrippa said to Paul, "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?" And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains."

Silence the Critics

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.

Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

What Apologetics is Not

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

- not an apology "reason for the hope"
- not argumentative or bullying "gentleness and respect"
- not self-honoring "good behavior in Christ"

The Biblical Mandate – Jude 3

- "Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."
- "contend" fight, struggle i.e. gymnastic games
- "faith" the Gospel message, our "common salvation"
- Fight against the false teachers who "who pervert the grace" and "deny our only Master and Lord."

The Biblical Setting

- 1 Peter 3 "suffer for righteousness' sake"
- Jude "It is these [false teachers] who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit"
- "But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life." – Jude 20-21

Biblical Examples

- The Gospel of John (John 20:30-31) "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."
- Acts 17:2 "And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures..."
 - Acts 17:17; 18:4, 19;8-9
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ..."

Review

- "...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...." - 1 Peter 3:15
 - Defense ἀπολογίαν (apologia)
- "...contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."
 Jude 3
- Apologetics as proof, defense, and offense

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- Van Til, Cornelius. "Christian Apologetics. Second Edition." Ed.
 William Edgar. Philipsburg: P&R Publishers, 2003.

What is a Worldview?

"A person's worldview is their network of ultimate beliefs, assumptions, values, and ideas that functions as a framework for interpreting their immediate experiences and for interacting with the world." – James N. Anderson

Why do we start with worldview?

"Apologetics is the vindication of the Christian philosophy of life against the various forms of the non-Christian philosophy of life." - Cornelius Van Til

Apologetics is a "battle" of worldview against worldview.

Everyone has a worldview, whether they know it or not.

A worldview involves "Big Question" beliefs.

A worldview functions like an intellectual filter or a pair of glasses.

A person can change their worldview, but large-scale changes are difficult.

A comprehensive worldview includes the standards for its own evaluation.

Worldview vs. Worldview

A worldview functions like an intellectual filter or a pair of glasses.



Worldviews – everyone has one!

"Neutral Ground"

- What is "Neutral Ground"?
- Do not argue on criteria derived from the Bible
 - This is biased
- Arguments should not include religious assumptions
- Use criteria that the unbeliever can accept
 - Logic, facts, experience, reason
- Leave Scripture out of it it's what's on trial to begin with

Evaluating "Neutral Ground"

- God is the sovereign creator over the entirety of Creation
 - "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Colossians 1:17
 - There is nothing that is outside the Lord's authority/Word
- Man is sinful
 - "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" – Jeremiah 17:9
 - Man's worldview is always distorted by sin
- True knowledge only comes with Christ
 - "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters." Matthew 12:30
 - One is either for or against Christ

The Myth of "Neutral Ground"

- There is nothing that is outside the Lord's authority and Word
- Man's understanding of the world is always distorted by sin outside of Christ
- One is either for or against Christ
- At the apologetic table, there is no "neutral ground"
 - The Word of God is authoritative
 - The non-Christian has their own worldview assumptions
 - The Christian has Biblical worldview assumptions

The Myth of "Neutral Ground"

Two questions:

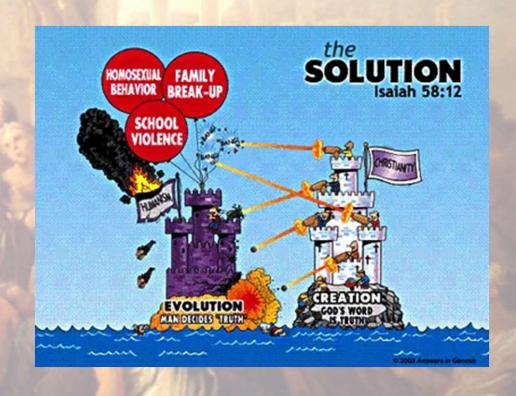
- 1. Can Christians faithfully engage in apologetics by setting aside the Bible?
 - No The Bible should inform all that we do in all of life
- 2. Can non-believers engage in apologetic conversations by setting aside the effects of sin?
 - No The non-Christian is biased in their view of the world

Common Groud

- Finding "common ground"
 - Something that both can agree on
 - For example: reason
- Reason is not "neutral"
 - It assumes something about man
 - They are rational
 - Why?
 - Because a rational God created man in His image
- Common ground can be found BUT everyone brings their worldview to the table

The Myth of "Neutral Ground"





The Myth of "Neutral Ground"



Presuppositional Apologetics

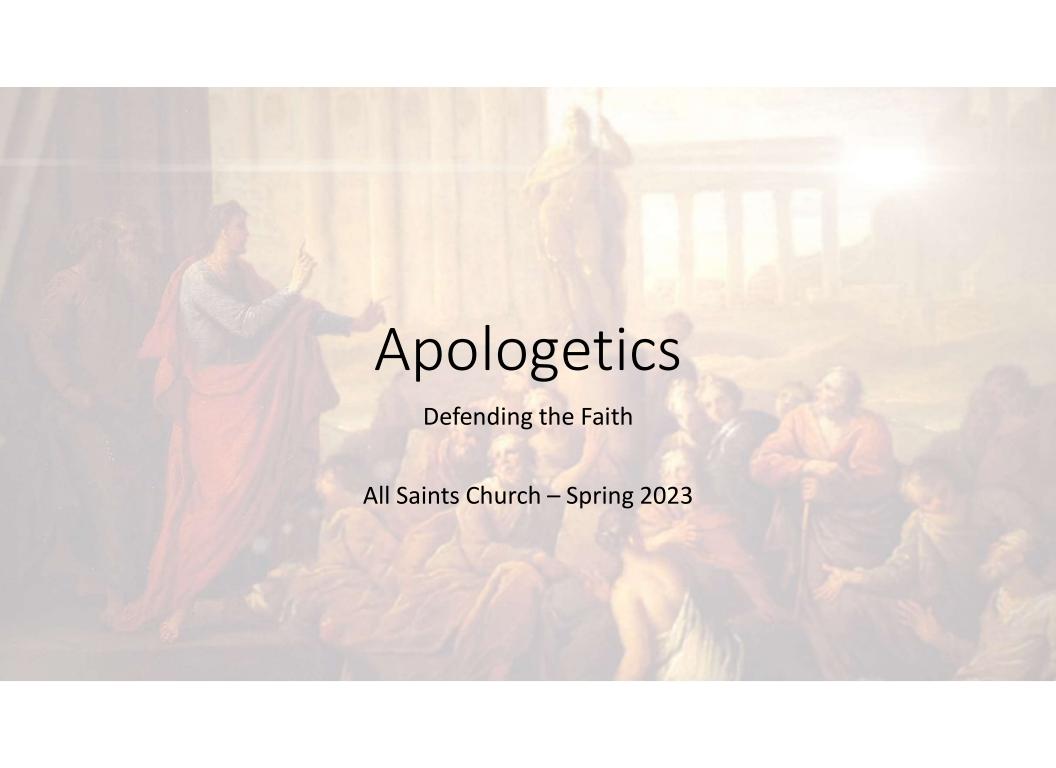
Step 1: Show that the non-Christian's presuppositions undermine rational thought.

Step 2: Show that the Christian's presuppositions support rational thought.

Presupposition – "basic heart-commitment" or worldview

"Our apologetic approach is firmly rooted in our commitment to Christ's covenantal Lordship." – John Frame

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'" –Abraham Kuyper



Review

- "...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...." - 1 Peter 3:15
 - Defense ἀπολογίαν (apologia)
- "...contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."
 Jude 3
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Review

- Worldview a network of ultimate beliefs, assumptions, values
- No Neutral Ground
 - God is sovereign
 - Man is sinful suppresses the truth
 - The Bible is the final authority the source of the Christian worldview
- Christian worldview vs. Non-Christian worldview
- Presuppositional Apologetics

The Message of the Apologist

- "The apologist's message, ultimately, is nothing less than the whole Scripture, applied to the needs of his hearers." – John Frame
- A defense of the Christian worldview (Apologetics as Defense)
- Exposing the non-Christian worldview (Apologetics as Offense)
- Utilizing Proofs (Apologetics as proof)

The Message of the Apologist

- How does one become an apologist?
 - You are already an apologist...
 - Giving a reason for your hope
 - Growing in your understanding of Biblical truth
 - Enhancing your worldview
 - Understanding non-Christian worldviews
 - Learning the tools to engage with others
- What are the tools to engage with others?
 - Evaluating Methods
 - Learning the proofs
 - Seeing and putting into action

Everyone has a worldview, whether they know it or not.

A worldview involves "Big Question" beliefs.

A worldview functions like an intellectual filter or a pair of glasses.

A person can change their worldview, but large-scale changes are difficult.

A comprehensive worldview includes the standards for its own evaluation.

What's in a Worldview?

Theology: presuppositions about God (and about ultimate reality)

Anthropology: presuppositions about humans (origins, nature, purpose)

Knowledge: presuppositions about knowledge and truth (existence, how)

Ethics: presuppositions about goodness and morality (source, nature, goal)

Salvation: presuppositions about the basic human problem and its solution

The Biblical Worldview

- Theology: God and Reality
- There is a God
 - God is perfect
 - God is a personal absolute
 - God is a Trinity
- God is Creator
 - Creation ex nihilo
 - God is transcendent and immanent
 - God is Sovereign

- Apologetics aims to prove the Biblical God, not general theism
- Everything depends on God
- Creation to Creator
- Explains our rationality and personality
- Explains the otherness of God
- Explains the closeness of God

The Biblical Worldview

- Anthropology: The Nature of Man
- Created in God's image
 - Physical and Spiritual
- Fallen Humanity
 - Sin and death
- Redeemed Humanity
 - Through Christ
 - Eternal life physical and spiritual

- Value to the body and the soul: holistic
- "Glorify God and enjoy Him forever"
- The intellectual effects of sin
- Point of contact: human nature is the same for all

The Biblical Worldview

- Knowledge
- Nature
 - The creation clearly displays the Creator
 - Logic and reason
- Scripture
 - Ultimate standard of truth

- Unbeliever
 - Suppresses knowledge
 - · Will not submit to God's word
- Believer
 - Saving knowledge
 - Think "Christianly"
- Appealing to what is already revealed
- The Holy Spirit alone can convert

The Biblical Worldview

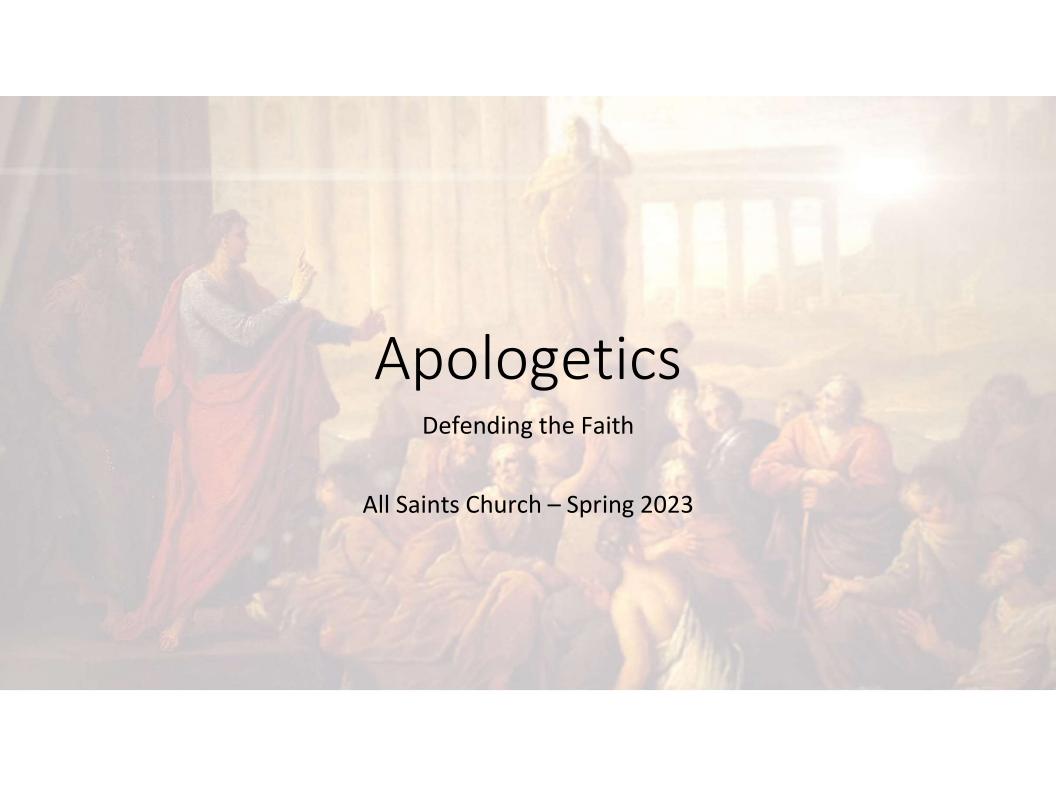
- Ethics: Goodness and Morality
- Objective and Real
 - Moral standard: God's word
 - Moral goal: God's glory
 - Moral motive: God's love
 - God's character and will
- Moral Accountability
 - Divine judgement

- Natural law appeal to the moral knowledge
- Apologetics by
 - The right standard
 - The right goal
 - The right motive
- The moral arguments is one of the strongest
 - Any other view outside of the Christian worldview is not morally consistent

The Biblical Worldview

- Salvation: Problem and Solution
- Sin and Judgement
- Salvation through Christ alone
- Salvation is Trinitarian
 - Appointed by the Father
 - Accomplished in the Son
 - Applied by the Holy Spirit
- Salvation by grace through faith
 - Not works

- Only by grace
- Karma does not exist
- Not just belief in God but faith
- Defend the Gospel
- Man cannot find personal fulfillment



Review

- "...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...." - 1 Peter 3:15
 - Defense ἀπολογίαν (apologia)
- Worldview a network of ultimate beliefs, assumptions, values
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The Message of the Apologist

- Growing in your understanding of Biblical truth
 - Study the Word
 - Sit under the Reading and Preaching of the Word
- Enhancing your worldview
 - Theology
 - Doctrine
 - Catechism
- Evaluating Methods
 - Evidentialist
 - Classical

The Evidentialist Model

- "The evidential method of apologetics... tend to focus chiefly on the legitimacy of accumulating various historical evidences for the truth of Christianity." - Gary R. Haermas
- The Basic Motto: "Faith based on evidence"
- One-step approach Christianity is most probably true
 - Proofs from science and religious experience

The Evidentialist Model

- Scientific Proof
 - the existence of the physical universe
 - the fine-tuning of the physical universe
 - the origins of life
 - apparent design in biology
- Example: "The Complexity of a Single Living Cell" Ken Boa
 - "In other words, as we look closer at cells—the building blocks of every living thing—we find that these building blocks are in themselves as complex as the bodies they constitute. Even the simplest form of life, therefore, appears to be irreducibly complex, such that it could not have come into existence by merely natural means."

The Evidentialist Model

- Religious Experience
 - human consciousness and human values
 - religious experience in general
 - miracles (especially Jesus' miracles)
 - biblical prophecies
 - the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth
 - the testimony of the early Christians
 - the history of the Christian church
- Example: "The Resurrection: Fact or Fiction? A Real Historical Event" Dr. Patrick Zukeran
 - "Along with the empty tomb is the fact that the corpse of Jesus was never found.
 Not one historical record from the first or second century is written attacking the
 factuality of the empty tomb or claiming discovery of the corpse. Tom Anderson,
 former president of the California Trial Lawyers Association states..."

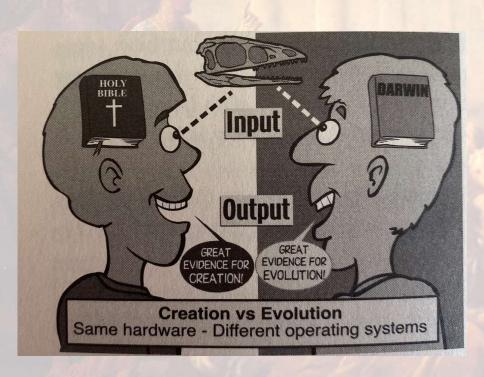
The Evidentialist Model - Rationale

- As a general principle, factual questions are settled by an appeal to evidence.
- Christians need to answer the skeptical challenge, "Not enough evidence!"
- Christianity can be demonstrated scientifically like any other hypothesis.
- Christianity can be vindicated according to scholarly standards of historical research.
- The New Testament places particular emphasis on the evidential significance of the Resurrection.

The Evidentialist Model - Strengths

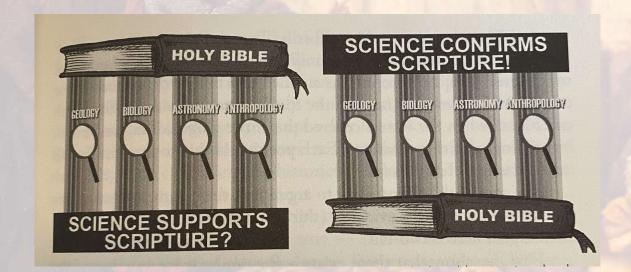
- Evidentialist Apologetics offers a familiar and intuitive approach to proving factual claims.
- Evidentialist Apologetics offers an approach that appears to be objective and amenable to fair minded unbelievers.
- The New Testament suggests that certain empirical observations do indeed give evidence for the claims of Jesus and the apostles (Jn 10:25; 14:10-11; 20:30).
- It seems possible to make a strong historical case for the Resurrection.
- It makes a lot of sense to focus on the Resurrection as the defining miracle of the Christian faith (1 Cor 15).

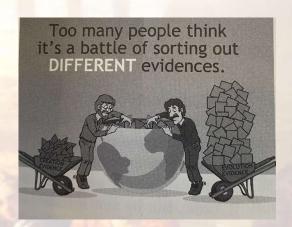
The Evidentialist Model - Weaknesses

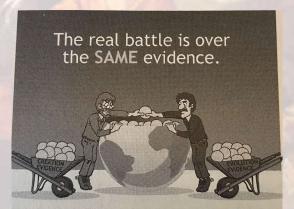


- Insufficient attention to the noetic (intellectual) effects of sin.
- Suggests that we should accept the Bible only if its content meets certain external evidential standards.
- Christians need to adopt a different epistemology for apologetics than for everything else.
- Not good with Postmodernism

The Evidentialist Model - Weaknesses







The Classical Model

- "The methodology of classical apologetics was first to present arguments for theism, which aimed to show that God's existence is at least more probable than not, and then to present Christian evidences, probabilistically construed, for God's revelation in Christ. This is the method I have adopted for my own work." –William Lane Craig
- The Basic Motto: "Faith based on Reason"
- Two-step approach Christianity is true
 - Step 1 God exists using traditional theistic arguments
 - Step 2 Jesus was the Son of God using historical arguments

The Classical Model

- Stage 1: Show that God exists using traditional theistic arguments.
- Ontological argument: The non-existence of God is not consistently conceivable.
- Cosmological argument: The contingent universe required a necessary first cause.
- Teleological argument: The apparent design in the universe points to a designer.
- Moral argument: Objective moral laws point to a transcendent lawgiver.

The Classical Model

- Stage 2: Show that Jesus was the Son of God using historical arguments.
- Preliminary argument: The Gospels are at least generally reliable.
- Argument from prophecy: Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament
- Argument from character: Jesus was morally perfect and a sublime teacher.
- Argument from miracles: Jesus' miracles point to his supernatural origins.
- Argument from resurrection: Jesus' resurrection confirms his claim to be divine.

The Classical Model – Rationale and Strengths

- This approach to defending the Christian faith has a strong historical pedigree.
- The argument has a straightforward logical structure.
- You have to use premises and assumptions that are acceptable to the non-Christian.
- You cannot argue for miracles without first arguing for God's existence.
- Classical Apologetics offers itself as an objective approach to defending Christianity.

The Classical Model – Weakness

- Insufficient attention to the noetic (intellectual) effects of sin.
- Gives the impression that human reason is religiously neutral.
- Gives the impression that human reason is autonomous.
- Rationalistic in its approach problems when it comes to defending central Christian doctrines like the Trinity and the Incarnation.

Evaluating Methods

- Evidentialist
 - Faith based on evidence
 - One-step Christianity is probably true
 - Doesn't account for presuppositions
- Classical
 - Faith based on Reason
 - Two-Step Theism -> Jesus the Son of God
 - Relies on "Neutral Ground"
- Both provide good "proofs"

The Message of the Apologist

- "The apologist's message, ultimately, is nothing less than the whole Scripture, applied to the needs of his hearers." John Frame
- A defense of the Christian worldview (Apologetics as Defense)
 - Know the Bible
 - Enhance the Christian Worldview
- Exposing the non-Christian worldview (Apologetics as Offense)
- Utilizing Proofs (Apologetics as proof)
 - Arguments of Reason
 - Arguments of Science
 - Arguments of Religious Experience

Review

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 - Arguments of Reason
 - Arguments of Science
 - Arguments of Religious Experience

Apologetics as Offense

- Exposing the non-Christian worldview (Apologetics as Offense)
 - Understanding the non-Christian worldview
 - Asking the right questions
- Understanding the non-Christian worldview

The History of Ideas

Presupposition

- Middle Ages God is King
- Modern Science is King
- Postmodern I am King

Philosophical Thoughts

- Enlightenment
- Romanticism
- Deism
- Darwinism
- Liberalism
- Humanism
- Materialism

The History of Ideas

Middle Ages – God is King

Renaissance - Back to the Classics

Reformation – Recovery of Biblical Authority

Enlightenment – Rationalism and Science

Modern – Science is King

The History of Ideas

- Enlightenment
 - Rationalism
 - Science
 - Academic

- Romanticism
 - Feelings
 - Emotion
 - Nature

Deism

Scientific Revolution

Industrial Revolution

Political Revolution

Socialism/Marxism

Darwinism

Social Darwinism

LIBERALISM – A DENIAL OF THE INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES

Worldviews

Enlightenment

Theology: Deism

Anthropology: Man is good

Knowledge: Skepticism, Mind

Ethics: Rational, common good

Salvation: Knowledge

Romanticism

Theology: Pantheism

Anthropology: Man is good

Knowledge: Senses, Feeling

Ethics: Societal

Salvation: Nature, Self-fulfillment

Movements

- Scientific Revolution
 - Heliocentric model
 - Inductive Method
- Political Revolution
 - Feudalism
 - Monarchy
 - Revolution
 - Democracy
 - Social Contract

- Darwinism
 - Evolution
 - Survival of the fittest
 - God's "replacement"
- Industrial Revolution
 - Industrial growth
 - Man's achievement
- Socialism/Marxism
 - Response to capitalistic "oppression"
 - Statism
- Social Darwinism
 - Darwin applied to society

The Death of Modernism

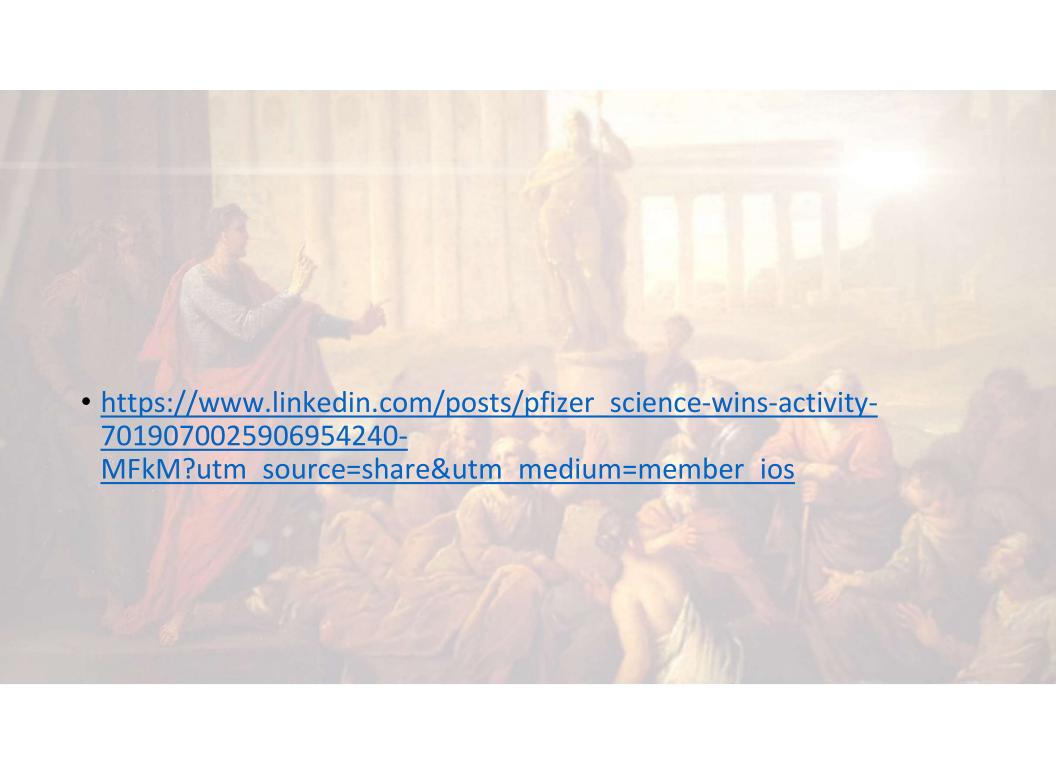
- Optimism of the 19th century...
 - Scientific
 - Political
 - Industrial
- Destroyed by the destruction of the 20th century
 - WWI; WWII; Vietnam; Cold-War
 - Fascism; Communism
 - The Great Depression

The Birth of Postmodern

- The Hope of the Enlightenment...
 - Rationalism
 - Science
 - Knowledge
- Not trusted by Postmodernism
 - No objective reality
 - No Truth
 - Socially determined

The Seeds are Bearing Fruit

- Enlightenment Philosophy
 - Not dead yet
 - In praise of science
 - Public school education is the answer
 - The Social Contract the common good



The Seeds are Bearing Fruit

Darwinism

- Replaces God as the creator
- Reduces mankind to the next chain in evolution
- Materialism everything can be reduced to material things

Social Darwinism

- Greater impact
- "Survival of the fittest" applied to society
- Removes objective truth
- Humanity are products of their social construct

Evolution and Postmodernism

- Evolution applied to the law of ideas
 - Morality, law, religion, art, politics
- Evolution replaced Divine Providence
- The "truth" of one stage of history gives birth to the "higher truth" of the next stage
 - Survival of the fittest "ideas"
- Individuals are products of the age
 - Not producers
 - The Zeitgeist (spirit of the age)

Evolution and Postmodernism

- Truth is a product of the social construction
 - It is not absolute
 - Determined by its own experience and perspective
 - Cannot be judged it merely "is"
- Nietzsche "there are no facts, only interpretations"

I Am King

Presupposition

- Middle Ages God is King
- Modern Science is King
- Postmodern I am King

The Social Construct Buffet Table

- Deism
- Darwinism
- Liberalism
- Humanism
- Materialism
- Agnosticism
- Existentialism
- Empiricism
- Pantheism
- Scientism

The Root of the Problem - Theological Liberalism

- The Enlightenment Liberalism
- Deism God is only watching "from a distance"
- Rationalism man can determine truth through reason
- Science Everything can be explained scientifically
- No Miracles impossible
- The Bible a man made book
 - Higher criticism analyzing the Bible like any other book

The Root of the Problem - Theological Liberalism

The Father of Liberal Theology – Friedrich Schleiermacher

"As Roger Olson observes, Schleiermacher believed that religious experience is primary; theology is secondary and must constantly be reformed in relation to the changing aspects of Christian communities."

"For Schleiermacher, every doctrinal form is bound to a particular time and no claim can be made for its permanent validity. It is the task of theology in every present age, by critical reflection, to express anew the implications of the living religious consciousness."

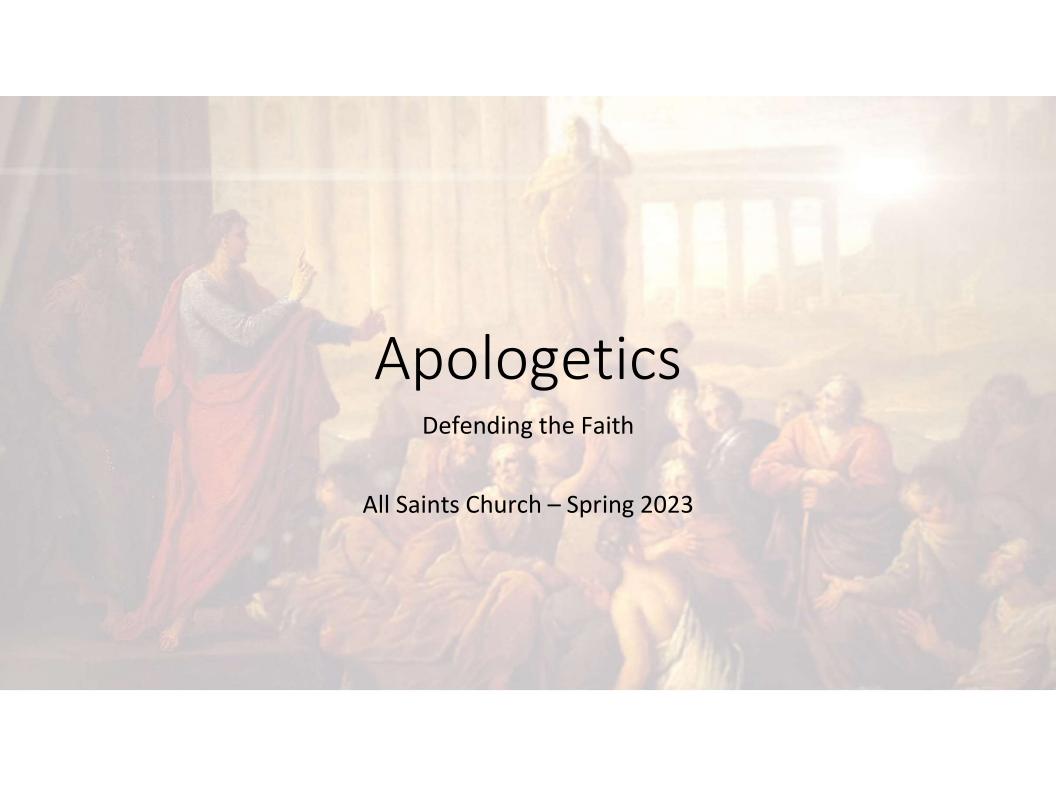
Defending the Gospel in a Postmodern World

Some Encouragement

- Defend for the glory of God
- Trust the work of the Lord the Holy Spirit will save
- Christ is King the gates of hell will not prevail against His kingdom
- Seeds take time to bear fruit plant good seeds
- Exposing the irrationalism of postmodernism is easy
 - The difficult part is that no one cares that it's irrational
- Humanity knows, but suppresses, the truth
 - One will never be able to get away from it

The Message of the Apologist

- "The apologist's message, ultimately, is nothing less than the whole Scripture, applied to the needs of his hearers." John Frame
- A defense of the Christian worldview (Apologetics as Defense)
 - Know the Bible
 - Enhance the Christian Worldview
- Exposing the non-Christian worldview (Apologetics as Offense)
 - Understanding the non-Christian worldview
 - Asking the right questions
- Utilizing Proofs (Apologetics as proof)
 - Arguments of Reason
 - Arguments of Science
 - Arguments of Religious Experience



Review

- "...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...." - 1 Peter 3:15
 - Defense ἀπολογίαν (apologia)
- Worldview a network of ultimate beliefs, assumptions, values
- Christian worldview vs. Non-Christian worldview
- Presuppositional Apologetics

Sources

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- Van Til, Cornelius. "Christian Apologetics. Second Edition." Ed. William Edgar. Philipsburg: P&R Publishers, 2003.

Discipleship as Lifelong

- · Be ready to give a defense... for the hope that is in you
 - You are an aroma of Christ to God... 2 Corinthians 2:14-17
 - Share the work of God in your own life
- Continue to grow
 - Study God's word
 - Understand the beauty of the Christian worldview
- Learn, learn, learn
 - Understand the worldviews
 - Understand the arguments
 - Books
 - Debates
 - Fellowship
- Be faithful

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- Proof: Show that only the Christian worldview can make rational sense of the subject matter in the first place.
- Defense: Show that objections to the Christian worldview either misunderstand the Christian worldview or presuppose a non-Christian worldview.
- Offense: Show that non-Christian worldviews refute themselves by undermining the very things they depend on for their cogency.

Dr. James N. Anderson, RTS Professor, RTS Lectures

- RTS App
- The Existence of the Biblical God
- The Divine Inspiration of the Bible
- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The Problem of Evil and Suffering
- Science and Scripture

- The Problem of Evil and Suffering
 - The Intellectual Problem: Does the existence of evil and suffering disprove, or provide strong evidence against, the existence of God?
 - The Emotional Problem: If I believe that there is an all-good and all-powerful God, how can and how should I deal with the evil and suffering in the world?

- Proof: The problem of evil and suffering only make sense in a Christian worldview
 - Objective evil presupposes there is an objective standard of good and evil
 - No God no objective standard of good and evil
 - Objective evil there is a God
 - If there is no God there is no meaning
 - If no meaning it does not matter if humans suffer
 - It does matter there is a God

- Defense: Responding to Atheistic Arguments from Evil
- The argument stated:
 - If there were an all-good and all-powerful God, then he would not allow evil to exist.
 - · Evil exists.
 - Therefore, there is no all-good and all-powerful God.
- The argument reformulated
 - If there were an all-good and all-powerful God, then he would not allow evil to exist without morally sufficient reasons.
 - Evil exists.
 - Therefore, if there is an all-good and all-powerful God, then he has morally sufficient reasons for allowing evil to exist.

- Offense: Refuting the Alternatives (Show that no other worldview offers a better solution to the problem of evil.)
- The Darwinian Naturalist View
 - No objective good or evil just pleasure and pain
 - Good and evil (pleasure and pain) products of evolution
 - Basic solution: avoid and eliminate pain, pursue pleasure
- The Pantheist View
 - No objective good or evil all is One and all is God
 - Pain and suffering illusions
 - Basic solution: gain enlightenment recognize pain/suffering are illusions

- Dr. Jason Lisle
 - The Ultimate Proof of Creation
- Reasoning with the Critic
- Procedure for Defending the Faith
- Logical Fallacies
- Answering the Critics

- Don't Answer, Answer
- Proverbs 26:4-5

Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.

Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

- Do not answer the unbeliever according to their own fallacious presuppositions
 - Do not argue in his realm no neutral ground
- Answer an unbeliever to show the absurdity of their argument

- Science "vs" Faith
 - All scientific evidence show that life evolved over billions of years. Science would be impossible if God were constantly interfering with the laws of nature.

Don't Answer

- I would disagree
 - Possible examples irreducible complexity
- The laws of nature show the consistency of God upholding the universe
 - Clarify the Christian worldview

Answer

- If the universe is an accident, so are our brains how do we expect our accidental brains to understand the accident of the universe?
- Why is there a uniformity in an evolving universe?
- Why do you presume that the laws of nature will work in the future as in the past?

- The Bible
 - You can't trust the Bible. It is full of contradictions.

- Don't Answer
 - Do not try to prove every "contradiction" wrong indefinite process
 - I would disagree...
- Answer
 - Assuming that it is, why in your worldview would that be wrong?
 - What is your basis for the laws of logic to even have a contradiction?

Dr. John M. Frame

- Apolgetics: A Justification for Christian Beliefs
- The Basics
- The Message metaphysics, epistemology, ethics
- Transcendental Arguments
- Theistic Arguments
- Proving the Gospel
- Problem of Evil
- Appendixes

- The Circular Argument
 - The Bible is true; therefore the Bible is true
 - A circular argument has no real power to persuade anyone who is not already persuaded

- Premise 1: Whatever the Bible says is true
 - True or false?
- Premise 2: The Bible says that it is the Word of God
 - True or false?
- Conclusion: Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God
- Narrowly Circular There is no higher authority than Scripture
 - Disadvantage unbelievers will dismiss this out of hand; "begging the question"
- Broadly Circular The Bible is the Word of God because of various arguments
 - Still circular, but it will capture the unbelievers attention longer
 - The apologist can now choose the evidences in ways controlled by the Bible
- "Circularity, in the senses that I have conceded it, can be as broad as the whole universe, for every fact witnesses to the truth of God." page 15

"Everyone else reasons the same way. Every philosopher must use its own standards in providing its conclusion; otherwise it is simply inconsistent."

Rationalist – presuppose the authority of reason

Empiricism – presuppose the authority of sense-experience

A comprehensive worldview includes the standards for its own evaluation.

Dr. John M. Frame, Apologetics

Humanism is a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. Affirming the dignity of each human being, it supports the maximization of individual liberty and opportunity consonant with social and planetary responsibility. - The Humanist Magazine

- Presuppositions
 - Rationalism where does it come from?
 - Compassion standards of ethics?
 - Dignity why are humans to be considered dignified?
 - What if someone's liberty does not show compassion?

Apologetics in the Current Culture

- Postmodernism "I Am King"
 - Distrusting of the sciences, reason, authorities
 - Products of their social constructs and environments cannot be judged
 - Hiding behind
 - Personal truths identity, justice, ethics
 - Technology screens no personal interaction
- All arguments phrased in ethical and moral terms
 - Inequality justice
 - Identity love vs. hate
 - Abortion 'rights'
 - Politics defend the oppressed

Be Prepared

- But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, <u>always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;</u> yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.
- Do not fear trust the Lord
- Be prepared read, study, prayer, fellowship
- Reason for the hope share the good work of God in your own life
- Gentleness showing kindness
- Respect the imago dei
- Good conscience so that we may win some

- Greg Koukl
 - Tractics
- The Game Plan
 - The steps of engaging in conversation
 - Listen
 - Questions
 - Example conversations
- Finding the Flaws
 - Self-refuting arguments
 - Reductio ad absurdum
 - The scholar

Christ's Ambassadors:

- Knowledge of God's kingdom and responses to obstacles
- Wisdom tempered knowledge; clarity and persuasion
- Character embodiment of the God we defend

Strategy

- "As followers of Jesus, we have a tremendous strategic advantage... our worldview holds up well under serious scrutiny..."
- Offense
- Defense

Tactics

- Listen and response
- A guide into arranging resources in an artful way
- Clever ways to exploit bad thinking to guide into truth
- Not embarrass, wound, play one-upmanship

- Christianity is basically the same as all other religions. The main similarity is love. We shouldn't tell others how to live or believe.
 - How much have you studied other religions to compare the details and find common themes?
 - Why would the similitudes be more important than the differences?
 - What do you think Jesus' attitude was on the issue?
 - Isn't telling people to love one another just another example of doing what you're objecting to?



- Greg Bahnsen vs. Gordon Stein
 - The Great Debate: Does God Exist?
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDHkheBeTRE
 - 38:30