

Apologetics | Week 9

Review

- I. What is Apologetics?
 - a. Definition
 - b. Evidential Strategy: “Why not?” (Let’s look at the evidence for/against)
 - c. Presuppositional: “What do you believe? What do you mean by ...?”
- II. **Objection 1:** “I don’t believe in the existence of God.”
 - a. Ev: Explanation of universe, Causes, Purpose, Morals, Transcendent Values, the existence of greater beings, exist and must be grounded externally/ultimately.
 - b. Presup: You already believe in [the things in “a”]. On what basis?
- III. **Objection 2:** “I don’t believe the Bible is true.”
 - a. Ev: Miracles, historical reliability, positive social impact
 - b. Presup: After a good faith reading, you reject message of the most important book? What guides you instead?
- IV. **Objection 3:** “I don’t believe that Jesus rose again from the dead.”
 - a. Ev: Reliability of sources (early, not contrived, attested); possibility of miracles; presence of the church.
 - b. Presup: What is a better story than the best possible person willingly endures worst possible experience for the least worthy people and rises again?
- V. **Objection 4:** “I don’t believe in hell.”
 - a. Ev: (1) transcendent evil (2) freedom/ consequences (3) Bible (4) afterlife
 - b. Presup: hell is for torture; God should not be wrathful; evil not punished; freedom not respected; non-existence is better
- VI. **Objection 5:** “Christianity is repressive.”
 - a. Ev: Is there internal/external evidence that Christianity makes things worse?
 - b. Presup: the charge of repression is really the rejection of restraint.
- VII. **Objection 6:** “There can’t be just true religion.”
 - a. Ev: (1) Exclusive truth claims are possible (2) all religions make them
 - b. Presup Claims:

- i. “No true religion”: No ultimate meaning, truth; no system none superior?
- ii. “All the same message”: Do they? What is it? How do you know?
- iii. “Each has a bit of truth, none has all”: Who sees the elephant?
- iv. “Based on upbringing”: true for the secularist; “Arrogant”: not a falsifier
- v. Fate of heathen: Biblical claim; “Causes violence” Compared to what?

VIII. **Objection 7:** “Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism are true for many people.”

- a. God is personal; Grace is Free; Jesus Saves; Biblical worldview is superior

IX. **Objection 8:** “I can’t believe in God when there is so much evil.”