

Series: Apology — Giving a Defense for the Faith

Title: Part 9 — Subjectivist Arguments

Text: Selected Passages

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“For eighty-six years I have been his servant and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme against my king and saviour?” **Polycarp**

1. OBJECTIVE VS. SUBJECTIVE

“Objective Truth” = truth established by a fixed standard that is _____ of a learner.

“Subjective Truth” = truth based on a standard _____ a learner.

“Subjectivity” = A way of describing a knowledge that is not detached (“objective”) but that involves the knower fully in it” (Donald McKim).

Subjectivity is concerned with what one learns through his or her own _____.

2 Important Warnings...

A. Avoid _____.

Much of the Western world operates by a relativistic philosophy of life. In essence, many live by the modern mantra of, “What’s true for you is true for you; what’s true for me is true for me.” Another relativistic slogan says, “If it feels good, do it.”

B. Stay faithful to the _____ of Scripture.

2. SUBJECTIVISM AND APOLOGÍA

Subjectivist apologetics is akin to a witness’ activity in a _____ of _____.

1 Peter _____

1 Peter _____

2 Benefits of Subjectivist Arguments...

1. They give _____ to Christ.

2. They offer opponents of the faith an opportunity to _____ what life might be like if they were to embrace the faith.

The apologist should beware of overly-intellectualized expressions of the world and life... The best arguments are those which offer convincingly superior ways of dealing with life, especially in regard to the sorts of experiences shared by the non-Christian. The non-Christian must come to see that Christianity offers a better way to interpret and face up to life; it offers the best explanation and support for the things worth believing. **Chismar and Brent**

3. SUBJECTIVIST ARGUMENTS IN SCRIPTURE

Let's consider a few biblical examples...

- A. The Woman At The Well (John _____)
- B. The Man Who Was Once Blind (John _____)
- C. The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus (Luke _____)
- D. The Apostles before the Government (Acts _____)
- E. The Apostle Paul's Testimony (Acts _____)

4. SUBJECTIVIST ARGUMENTS

Let's consider five different arguments....

- A. The Experience of _____
- B. The Experience of _____
- C. The Experience of God's _____

He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

"I Serve A Risen Savior" — Alfred Henry Ackley

- D. The Experience of God's _____
- E. The Experience of _____ Prayers

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do you understand the difference between subjective truth claims and objective truth claims? Do you think both have a place in the Christian experience? Can Christian knowledge be acquired by both?
2. Have you ever used your experience in order to share the faith with someone else? Before you became a Christian, did you ever have someone share their Christian experience with you? How did that impact you?
3. Why do you think the sharing of one's experience can be so powerful and impactful on others?
4. Can you articulate your testimony through the three-minute testimony mentioned above? Practice sharing your testimony with others.
5. Do you agree with the following statement — "No one can argue with your experience?"
6. What are some deficiencies or dangers in the subjectivist approach?