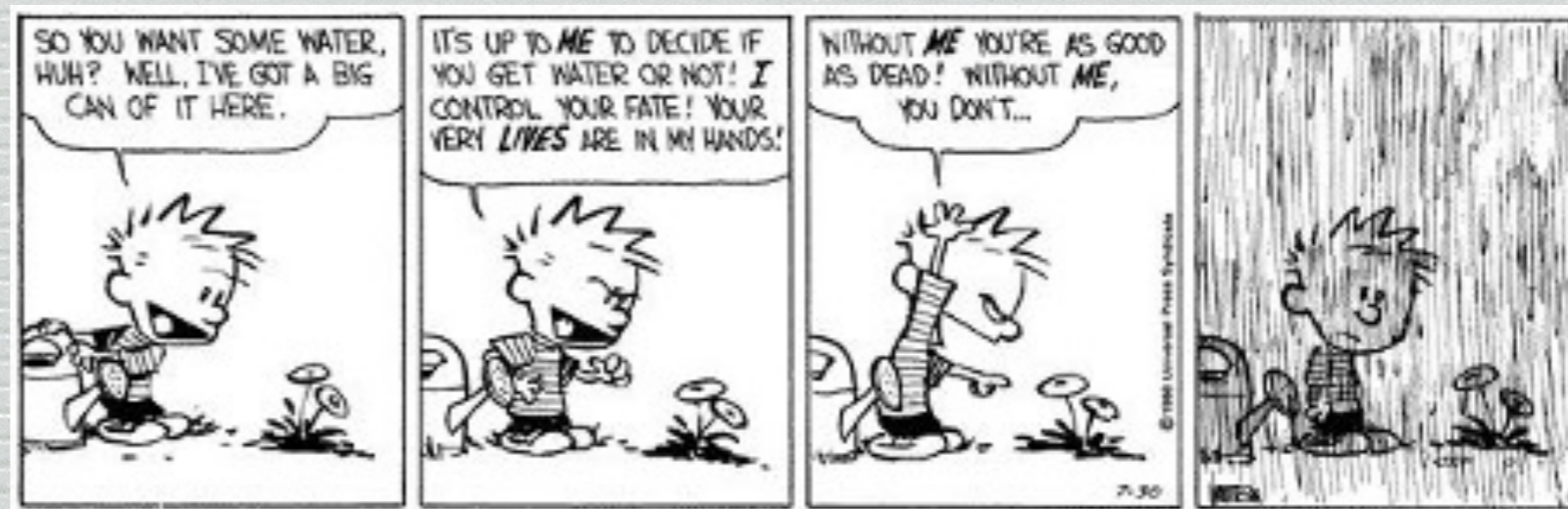


Apologetics

“All Men By Nature Desire to Know”

- Aristotle

Garden Fellowship
May 2022 with La Nej Garrison



What is Apologetics

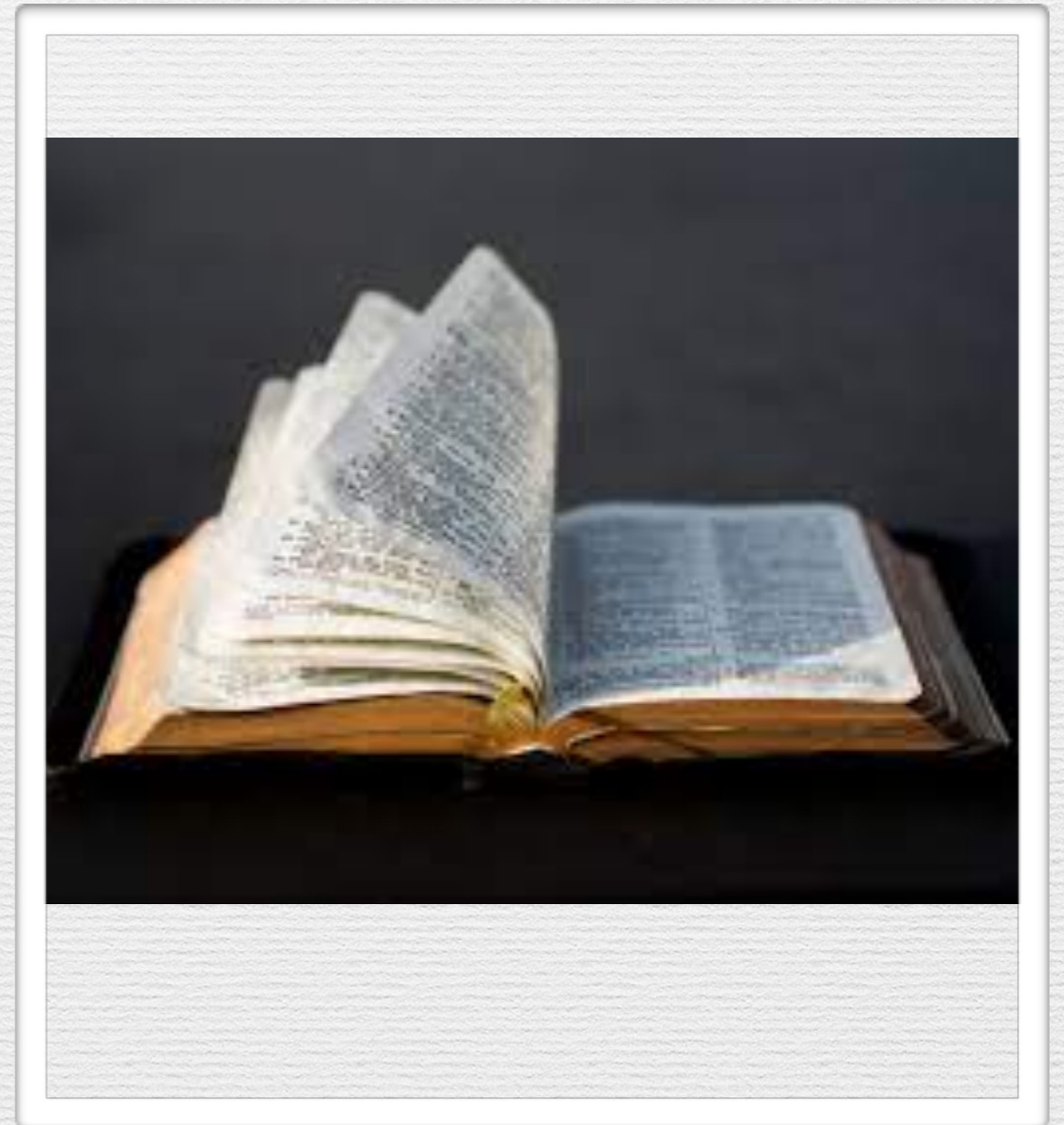
- Apologetics - Apologeomai (Greek) - to defend something
- “ Rational justification of the truth claims of the Christian faith. It is a theoretical discipline with practical application
- Expression of loving God with our minds.
- Showing truth to unbelievers.
- Confirm faith with unbelievers.

“Apologetics can be defined as that New Testament ministry which seeks to provide rational grounds for believing Christianity in whole or in part and to respond to objections raised against Christianity in whole or in part.”

—J. P. Moreland

Biblical Presupposition

1. 1 Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear
2. Colossians 4:6 - Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.



Why study
apologetics?

Reasons against defending the faith

- Faith is blind, we don't need evidence.
- Reasoning takes away from the Holy Spirit.
- Philosophy and Theology can't be married!



The Blind Men and the Elephant

A popular analogy purporting to illustrate the truth of religious pluralism tells of four blind men who discover an elephant.

Since the men have never encountered an elephant, they grope about, seeking to understand and describe this new phenomenon.

One grasps the trunk and concludes it is a snake.

Another explores one of the elephant's legs and describes it as a tree. A third finds the elephant's tail and announces that it is a rope.

And the fourth blind man, after discovering the elephant's side, concludes that it is, after all, a wall.

Each, in his blindness, is describing the same thing: an elephant. Yet each describes the same thing in a radically different way.

According to religious pluralists, this is analogous to the different religions of the world: They are describing the same thing in radically different ways. Thus one should conclude that no individual religion has a corner on truth, but that all should be viewed as essentially equally valid.





- Fact: The Elephant - What the blind men see is in fact an elephant and not something else.
- Therefore all descriptions concerning the elephant must be either true or false.
- All descriptions are not equally true, in fact, they are all false.
- Is there any one who can come along with sight and accurately describe the object in question?

“...when two opposite points of view are expressed with equal intensity, the truth does not necessarily lie exactly halfway between them. It is possible for one side to be simply wrong.”

— **Richard Dawkins**

Laws of Logic

Notes derived from “Come Let us Reason” by Norman Geisler and
Ronald M. Brooks

What Is Logic? Laws of Logic and the Mind of God



- 1. Laws of logic are a **description of the functioning of God's mind.**
 - a. "In the beginning was the Logos (Word, Reason), and the Logos was with God and the Logos was God." (John 1:1)
 - b. God is the supremely logical thinker, and the laws of logic are a reflection of His mind, just as the moral law is a reflection of His character. Just as God did not arbitrarily make up the moral law, so He did not arbitrarily make up the laws of logic.

LOGIC

Logic is putting things in the right order.



What are the Laws of Logic?



Three laws of logic that are critical and undeniable.

Law of Undisputed Middle

A. Just because two things have one or a few things in common doesn't mean they have everything in common.

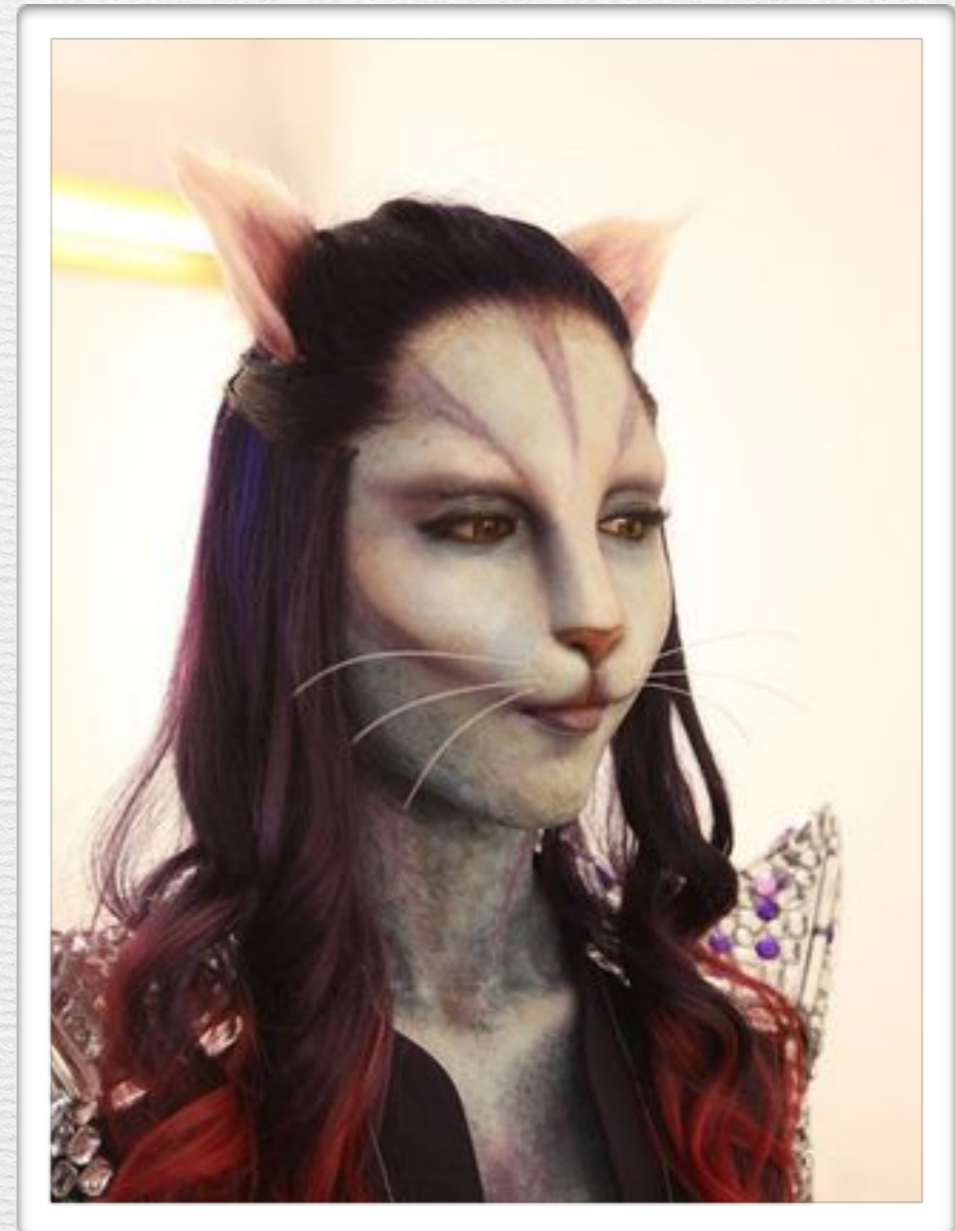
Ex. I have a nose. Cats have noses.

Therefore, I am a cat.

Ex. Christians believe in Jesus.

Mormons believe in Jesus.

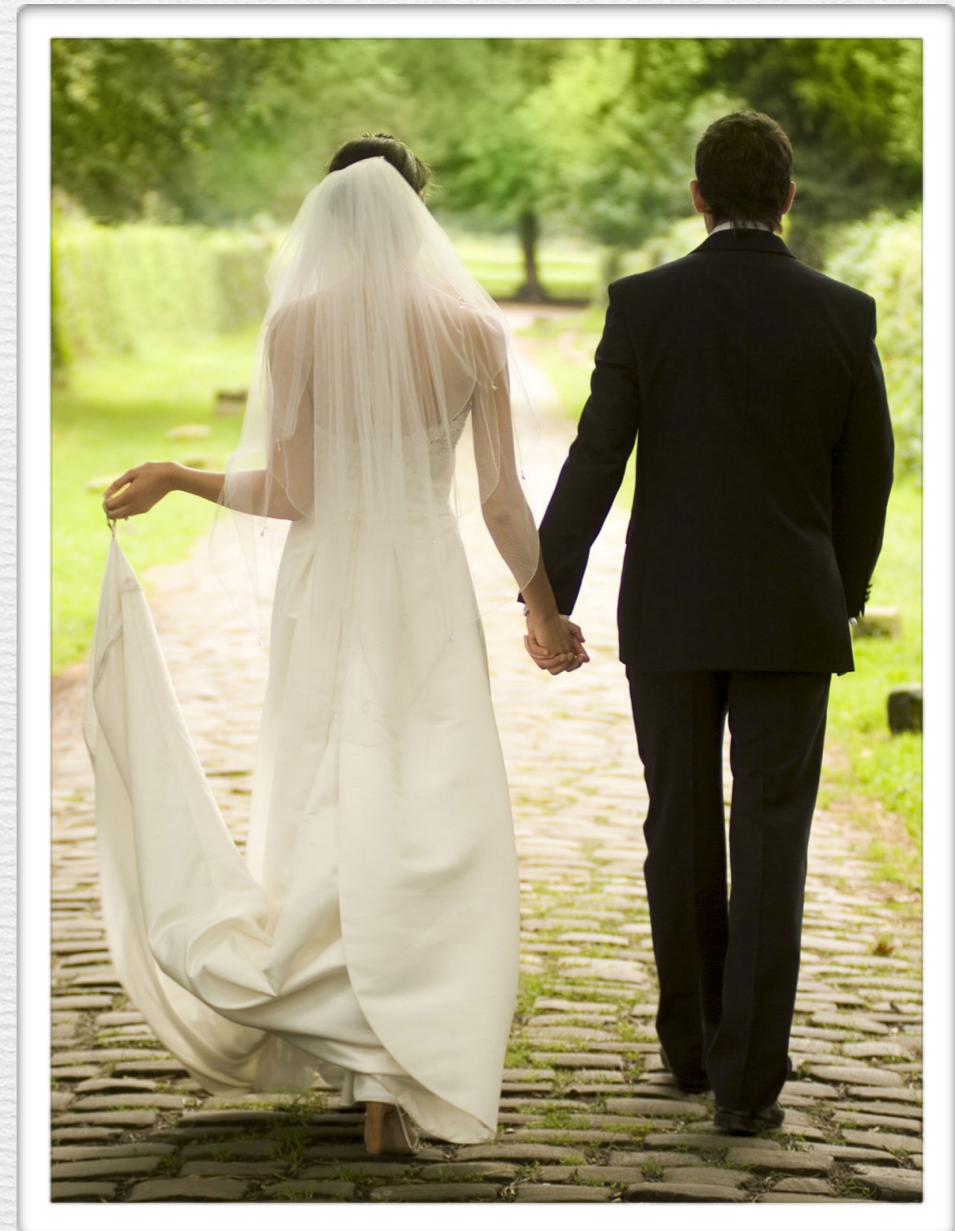
Therefore, Mormons are Christians.



Law of Rational Inference

What is true for the whole is true for the subset of the whole.

- 1. All men are mortal
 - 2. Ben is a man
 - 3. Therefore, Ben is a mortal
-
- ✦ “Unless valid inferences can be made from what is known to what is unknown, there can be no theological argumentation.
 - ✦ Whether in distinction between Christians on a matter of interpretation or in a debate with a non-Christian, no one could prove any point without the laws of rational inference.” - Geisler



Law of Non-Contradiction

- a. Two contradictory statements cannot be true at the same point and at the same time.

Ex. Peter can affirm and deny Christ at the same point and at the same time.

- b. With this law there could be no true or false.

Because this law draws the line between true and false.

- c. If logic is necessary for all thought than it is a necessary precondition of all thought, then it must also be necessary for all thought about God.

- d. If the law of non-contradiction were not true then we never able to know truths about so about God, this true and that is false.



Basis of Truth

- A. Jesus is the basis of all truth - John 14:6
- B. He has structured the world in such a way that the laws can not be denied.
- C. He exists as the basis of all logic.
- D. God is first; but in the ordering of knowing, logic leads us to all knowledge of God. We use logic in the process of knowing God, but that does not mean that God came after logic in reality. Without God, nothing could have existence.
- E. God is the basis of all logic.
- F. We are not examining God with logic, but the statements about God. Logic provides a way to see if those statements are true.



The Bible says that God is all powerful and can do the impossible?

A. God can do what is humanly impossible, but not what is actually impossible.

- Some things are impossible because of our human limitations, such as walking through walls or raising the dead. But for God, who has no body, is the giver of life, and is always everywhere, it is not.

B. Neither can God make a square circle

- Those things can't possibly exist because they are self-contradictory things. They are logically impossible.

If God created the laws of Logic, why can't He break them?

A. There is a big difference between the laws of nature and the laws of logic.

B. Natural laws are really only a description of how things normally operate. (Descriptive)

C. Laws of logic are more like ethical laws that tell us how our minds *should* operate. (Prescriptive)

D. Logic flows from God's nature and He cannot change His nature.

“False Ideas are the
Greatest Obstacle to
the Gospel”

- John Gresham