

Pactical
Apologetics
for
Confident
Evangelism
Conference

October 22-23, 2021

P.A.C.E. Conference Schedule

Schedule

Friday, October 22nd

7:00 p.m. Session One: A Stone in the Shoe of Your Worldview

Saturday, October 23rd

8:00 a.m. Complimentary Continental Breakfast

9:00 Session Two: It's Elephants All the Way Down

10:00 Break

10:15 Session Three: The Immanent Frame

11:30 Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. Session Four: No Matter Where You Go, There You Are

2:15 Break

2:30 Session Five: Where Mercy and Justice Meet

3:45 Break

4:00 Q and A

4:30 Closing Remarks

No childcare will be provided, but the nursery and cry room are available for parents' use.

A sandwich, chips, fruit, cookie, and bottled water lunch is available for purchase (\$10) in the Multi-Purpose Room as a fundraiser for our Youth Ministry. The Cost is \$10.00.

The CFF Bookstore will be open and staffed during the conference breaks.

Session One A Stone in the Shoe of Your Worldview

Key ideas

Four universal questions: “Where did I come from?” (or, why is there anything). “Why am I here?” (or, what’s the point). “What’s wrong with my world?” (Or, why is life so hard), and, “What happens when I die?” (I know there’s more to me than this).

The goal of Christian apologetics and evangelism: is to provide the basic biblical truths that God exists, we are his creatures, sin is the problem, we will all be held personally accountable for sin, and Jesus Christ is the only hope.

Be a good conversationalist: by engaging people in their favorite subject: them.

Key terms

Gospel: The objective fact that Jesus died for sin in accordance with the Scriptures, was buried, and was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. The proof of the gospel is eyewitness accounts and its impact on history.

Worldview: the lens through which the world is viewed. It is shaped by personal experience, background, culture, gender, ethnicity, age, religion, education, and the media. There are seven core parts of one’s worldview. 1. The nature of what one believes to be real. 2. How reality impacts one’s life. 3. What it means to be human. 4. View of life after death. 5. View of consciousness and knowing. 6. View of justice and morality. 7. The meaning of history.

Evangelism: the conscious effort, through word and deed, to share the message of Jesus Christ with other people. Evangelism falls into two broad categories, the Lifestyle approach and the Proclamation approach.

Apologetics: are methods used to defend the rationality of the Christian faith to see the skeptic convinced of the Lordship of Jesus Christ and nurture Christians in their faith.

Tough-minded people: are rationally motivated and look for logical answers based on proof or a convincing argument. Basic existence questions must be answered in the evangelism process.

Tender-minded people: are motivated by feelings, experiences, and stories. They seek answers that explain how they feel about themselves and the world.

Columbo: The Columbo approach can reveal a person’s worldview and determine the appropriate apologetic approach. The key is to probe in an inoffensive way with questions that advance the conversation in the direction you want to go. Never make a statement when a question will do.

Hills to die on:

The gospel is an objective fact and is the power of God.

The importance of lifestyle and proclamation.

The necessity of the Holy Spirit in conversion.

Hills of charity:

Different types of gospel presentations.

Practical Application and Exercises, Session One

Twenty Five Conversation Starters. 1. What is your passion? 2. What's the most important thing to you in life? 3. What would you do if you knew you had one year to live? One month? One week? Day? 4. What would you tell your younger self? 5. What are you busy with today? Will it still be important next year? 6. What's your biggest goal? 7. What would you do if you were independently wealthy? 8. Who do you most admire? 9. What's your favorite book? 10. What would you do over if you could? 11. If you had ten million dollars, what would you do with it? 12. What would be your ideal job or career? 13. Where would you most like to live? What would you like to tell yourself this time next year? In 3 years? 5 years? 14. What bad habits would you like to break? 15. What good habits would you like to develop? 16. Are you living now in the past, present, or future? 17. Do you have a life purpose? 18. How would you like your life to be more meaningful? 19. Who has influenced you most? 20. Who is most important in your life? 21. What would be an ideal friend? 22. What's your favorite activity? 23. What would you do if you retired? 24. How could the world be more just? 25. Should we love others more than ourselves?

Questions for contemplation

1. What are the four universal questions?

2. What are the four goals of apologetics and evangelism that mirror the four universal questions?

3. Explain the difference between objective and subjective. Why is this important?

4. What is the key to being a good conversationalist in using your ears?

5. The Columbo approach is to "never make a statement when..."

Session Two It's Elephants All the Way Down

Key Ideas

Worldviews: their basis and a challenge to absurdity.

Big question one: The Christian answer to the first question, “where did I come from?”

Columbo One and Two: the art of using questions to gather information in a pleasant manner.

Cosmological arguments.

Key terms, part one

Scientism is a philosophical view that only the scientific method and resulting data can provide truths about the world and reality.

Naturalism is the belief that only natural laws and forces operate in the universe. The universe is a “closed” system where there is no room for supernatural influences as in an open universe.

Humanism is atheistic and believes in human ability alone to understand the world through science and reason instead of supernatural force and revelation.

Secularism is the result of naturalism and humanism and seeks to organize society solely from a materialistic worldview. “Hard” secularism views religion as irrational. There should be no expression of religion in civic life. “Soft” secularism allows for tolerance and coexistence with religion as long as it doesn't intrude into the public square.

Pluralism is the belief that a wide variety of religions can exist in society and that the exclusive claims of different religions are, upon closer examination, variations of universal truth.

Excursus: the Christian worldview

The Ten Truths that form the Christian worldview.

1. Through infinite power, an eternal, self-existent, all-knowing, relational God of one essence, expressed in three persons of perfect goodness, created everything that exists outside of himself from nothing.
2. He created and now continually sustains a spiritual and a physical realm, each fine-tuned to sustain living beings. Transcendent from it, and wholly, God is constantly working in both realms, so every event serves his perfect, eternal plan.
3. In the physical realm, he created and continually sustains a variety of living, reproducing creatures. Humanity crowns the creation as a spirit embodied, physical Being who, by God's creation of them, share many of His attributes.
4. The deepest joy and fulfillment for human beings is only found through a saving relationship with God.

5. Humanity violated their perfect relationship by rejecting God as their creator, bringing God's curse on the creation and his judgment of death on humanity.
6. God graciously stayed judgment at the rebellion, provided a temporary reprieve, and promised a future creation where God is ever-present with renewed, sinless humanity fit for eternal life.
7. God's solution was to pay the penalty for this rebellion himself by taking on human form, perfectly obeying all God's demands, and offered Himself as the sacrifice necessary for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus Christ, promised from the beginning, was God the eternal Son who took on flesh and died a propitiatory death, allowing God the Father to be just in punishing sin and the justifier of sinners by his Son's substitution in their place.
8. To demonstrate the finished work of Jesus the Son, the Father physically raised him from death as the first of all those who will be raised from death, incorruptible and guaranteed eternal life and joy in the presence of God.
9. All who believe in Jesus as God's Son receive his perfect righteousness as a gift through the work of God the Spirit, who brings spiritually dead people to new life and frees them from the power of death.
10. The physical creation provides clear evidence of the existence of God, but to understand and believe in the saving work of Jesus requires special revelation through the Spirit of God. The truth of special revelation is spiritually discerned only in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament scriptures.

Key terms, part two

Oneism sees the universe as self-creating and self-explanatory. Everything is made of the same stuff, whether matter, spirit, or a mixture. This is a worldview based on sameness. The classic term for this is pantheism or paganism, the worship of nature. Oneism is the basis for every world religion except Christianity.

Immanence describes a pervading closeness to or being an integral part of something. In describing god, it means god is wholly in the creation.

Transcendence is when something is above or beyond. In describing god, it means the universe is in god, but god is also beyond and not contained in the universe.

Pantheism is the belief that all things make up an all-encompassing, immanent god. Immanent means immediate presence, as opposed to transcendent, which means separate and overarching. Pantheism does not recognize a personal god. Instead, it sees all of reality as divine.

Panentheism attempts to balance pantheism's immanence of gods with theism's transcendence by proposing that the universe is contained in god, but god is larger and extends beyond creation.

Twoism believes the creation is the decisive work of a transcendent, personal, eternal Being who created *ex nihilo*, out of nothing. There is God, and there is everything else sustained by God who has revealed Himself as a tri-personal being, eternally manifested as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Twoism necessarily requires a Triune God, which is unique to Christianity.

Theism is the belief that God is the ultimate reality and separate from the world and any other reality. This separation between God and the world means his interaction with the world is only by his choice and only through supernatural intervention.

False Twoism does not believe in a Triune God. A lone, impersonal, singularity view of god with no “face to face” divine other requires a relationship with creation for that god to be “personal.” That is Panentheism.

Kalam Cosmological Argument

Premise 1. Everything that begins to exist must have a cause.

Premise 2. The Universe began to exist

Conclusion 1. The universe must have a cause

The causing agent must be:

1. Transcendence, since it caused space and time.
2. Changeless, because it is timeless
3. Immaterial because it is spaceless
4. Uncaused, since nothing could be “before” it
5. All-powerful, since it caused time, space, energy, and matter
6. Personal and intelligent, since an effect reflects its cause and the effect (creation) contains design and intelligence

Conclusion 2. The cause of the universe is God.

The Intelligent Design (Teleological) argument made simple

1. The effect mirrors the cause. The creation (effect) reflects its Creator (the cause). A finite, fine-tuned cosmos that supports biological life that includes conscious, moral creatures requires an intelligent, all-powerful, infinite, eternal, and purposeful Creator.

2. Consciousness is the immaterial aspect of intelligent, relational, human creatures that reveals them as “ensouled” beings. Their existence requires a creator who perfectly possesses those attributes and all the others necessary to create a cosmos fine-tuned for intelligent life. The effect is a function of the cause, and human beings reflect the image of their Creator.

Hills to die on

Ex nihilo creation.

A personal, relational Creator.

A designed universe fine-tuned for intelligent life.

The image of God in humanity.

Hills of Charity

Standard (Big Bang) cosmology.

Age of the Universe.

Young earth and old earth views.

Questions for contemplation

1. Why is the idea of the image of God in humans essential to understand origins?

2. Why does Twoism require a personal God?

3. The difference between pantheism and panentheism is _____

vs. _____

4. Why are non-Christian “theistic” religions (Islam, Judaism, LDS) false theism?

5. An easy way to remember the origin arguments is _____

Session Three The Immanent Frame

Key Ideas

The roots of secularity as a fundamental change to Western society and culture.

Five Apologetic methods, two apologetic approaches.

A Biblical example of apologetics and evangelism from Acts 17.

The Christian answer to “why am I here?”

Key Terms

Immanent Frame is a limited “this world only” worldview identified by Charles Taylor that limits existence to the material only without a sense of the supernatural or transcendent. It is atheistic in one sense yet is challenged (cross-pressured) by the remnants of theism and inherent morality in humans.

Cross Pressure is the awareness all people have because of the image of God that is tarnished or dimmed but not extinguished. It is the invasion of the transcendent into the immanent frame.

Polytheism is the acceptance of a variety of oneist gods. Belief in some sort of god is fine as long as it isn't exclusive or intolerant.

Classical/Evidential Apologetics is an evidence-based approach from logic and historical facts to prove the rationality of faith in Jesus Christ.

Presuppositions are those things and beliefs we take for granted and are the building blocks of our worldview.

Presuppositional Apologetics is the approach that presumes the truth of God, Christ, sin, and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Offensive apologetics challenges the beliefs of unbelievers by identifying inconsistencies or absurdities.

Defensive apologetics is the proofs and logical arguments that defend the truth of foundational Christian doctrines.

The five types of apologetic methods

Classical Apologetics uses rational arguments for the existence of God and historical evidence supporting the truth of Christianity. Emphasis is placed on miracles as a confirmation of the claims of Christ and the Bible.

Evidential Apologetics stresses the need for evidence, i.e., rational proofs for God's existence. The focus is on historical, archeological, prophetic, and experiential proofs. Evidential overlaps the other approaches.

Cumulative Case Apologetics shows how the overall weight of evidence, presented conversationally, points to Christianity as the best explanation of reality.

Presuppositional Apologetics begins with the assumption (presupposition) that all people sense God, have suppressed that knowledge, and presents the truth that every person has, by their existence, a relationship (covenant) with God.

Reformed Epistemology takes its name from Calvin's claim of innate divine awareness of God's presence. Belief in God is rational and justified without arguments or proofs for the existence of God.

Hills to die on

Sovereign providence of God
Dual nature of Jesus Christ; His virgin birth, sinless life, atoning substitutionary death, resurrection, ascension to heaven, bodily return to judge and reward, eternal kingdom.
Biblical concepts of gender, marriage, family
Inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture

Hills of Charity

Choice of apologetics approach
Choice of evangelism method

Questions for contemplation

1. Describe what Taylor meant by the “immanent frame.” Do you know people with this view of reality?

2. What is the difference between Classical/Evidential and Presuppositional apologetics?

3. Where does Paul use offensive apologetics in Act 17:22-34?

4. Where does he use the defensive approach?

5. What kind of apologetics is best for the tender hearted? The tough minded?

Session Four No Matter Where You Go, There You Are

Key Ideas

The Christian answer to the question “What’s wrong with the world?”

Common alternatives to orthodox Christianity.

The Moral Argument for the existence of God.

Apologetics for the divine inspiration of infallible Scripture

Key Terms

Christless Christianity uses the words “Jesus,” “Christ,” even “Savior,” but their meaning is different from orthodox Christianity. Jesus is a life coach, therapist, political messiah, anything but a stumbling block and foolishness of “Christ and him crucified.”

Moralistic, therapeutic, deism (MTD) is a common set of beliefs held by the majority of those born after 1965.

1. A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair, as taught in the Bible and most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God is not particularly involved in one’s life except when He is needed to resolve a problem.
5. Good people go to heaven when they die

Anthropological argument: states that the philosophical and moral features in humanity originate in God.

Moral argument: states that the awareness of right and wrong and a sense of guilt cannot result from a purely evolutionary process. Morality is an inner witness placed in every human being by God.

Infallibility: is the characteristic of being completely trustworthy, incapable of erring or failing to accomplish an intended purpose. Bible’s purpose is to reveal the character of God and is the authority for human faith and practice.

Inerrancy: is the claim to be free from error. It is not the Bible’s purpose to reveal the laws of physics.

The Moral Argument:

1. If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
2. Objective moral values and duties exist.
3. Therefore, God exists.

The argument for Divine authorship of the Bible:

Premise 1. Only a perfect God can write an infallible book.

Premise 2. The Bible is an infallible book.

Conclusion: Therefore, the Bible is the Word of God.

Three arguments for the Bible as God's Word:

1. Authors=40, languages=3, continents=3, contradictions=0.
2. The textual evidence for the accuracy of the Bible is better than the evidence for the accuracy of the 37 plays of Shakespeare.
3. The chance of Jesus fulfilling just 8 of the 300 prophecies of his birth, life, death, and resurrection are the same as a blindfolded man randomly picking one red silver dollar out of the total needed to cover the state of CA two feet deep.

Hills to die on

The existence of a Divine moral standard
The Bible is the divine revelation of truth
Inspiration, accuracy, and infallibility of Scripture
The reality and consequences of sin

Hills of Charity

Bible translations
Inerrancy
Accounts of origins and activities beyond the scope of redemptive history

Questions for contemplation

1. What is the danger of Christless Christianity?
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2. What worldview does someone who claims to be "spiritual but not religious" probably have?
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3. List three reasons supporting the Bible as the divinely inspired word of God.
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4. List two important verses for the first steps in evangelism from Romans.
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5. What's the difference between infallibility and inerrancy? Why is this important?
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Session Five Where Justice and Mercy Meet

Key Ideas

The Christian answer to the question “What happens when I die?”
The case for the accuracy of the Gospels
The case for the resurrection as a historical event
The meaning of the cross in a zero-sum requirement.
Law or Gospel evangelism.

Key Terms

Penal substitutionary atonement.
Zero-sum requirement.
Messiah as Legend.
Luke-Acts as eyewitness

The argument for the Bible as God’s infallible word.

Premise 1: Only God can write an infallible book.
Premise 2: The Bible is an infallible book.
Conclusion: The Bible is the Word of God.

The argument for the resurrection of Jesus.

Premise 1: The Bible states that Jesus claimed to be God
Premise 2: Jesus said he would rise from the dead. (Jn 10:17–18)
Premise 3: Only God can raise someone from the dead.
Conclusion: Jesus is God.

The argument for Jesus as the only way to be saved.

Premise 1: God speaks only truth.
Premise 2: Jesus proved he was God.
Premise 3: Jesus says people are saved only through Him.
Conclusion: Jesus is the only Savior.

Hills to die on

The existence of reality.
The deity and humanity of Jesus Christ.
The historical accuracy of the Gospels.
The historical truth of the crucifixion, death, and physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus.
The penal substitutionary atonement view of Jesus’ death.

Hills of Charity

There are no “softer” or alternative views of the historicity of Jesus, the meaning of the cross, or his bodily resurrection. Each of these are essential teachings of the Christian faith.

Questions for contemplation

1. Why is the argument for the inspiration and infallibility of the Bible essential for evangelism?

2. Why is the idea of penal substitutionary atonement a “hill to die on” for understanding salvation?

3. What is a “zero-sum requirement?”

4. What is the problem with the “liar, lunatic, lord argument by C.S. Lewis?

5. What are two arguments to show that Jesus as Messiah is not a “legend” developed by the church?

Suggested Reading

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Christian Family Fellowship is a Christ-centered, elder-led church in Santa Rosa California. We emphasize expository preaching, the doctrines of grace, discipleship and missions. We are a non-denominational, evangelical fellowship and our doctrine could best be described as "Baptistic-Reformed" Our services blend the strengths of both traditional and contemporary styles of worship. Above all, we seek to bring glory to Christ in all that we say and do.

Our Sunday Morning Worship Service begins at 10:00 a.m.

Please come and experience the love of our church family!

Love for Christ and love for one another!