

Apologetics, Evangelism, and Worldviews in Conflict - Part 02

Critical Point: When the Christian faith is defended and presented biblically and accurately, there are no comebacks or counter-arguments that have any validity whatsoever.

Proverbs 21:30 There is no wisdom or understanding Or counsel against the Lord.

Application: It may be the case at times that we get stumped or do not know how to answer specific arguments, but the defect is only in us - *never in the truth itself as it is revealed by God in Scripture.*

Critical Point 2: Not everyone is persuaded by good arguments. Very often, in fact, people are persuaded by *very bad* arguments. This does not point to a defect in the truth, but rather a defect in people. Always remember that man suffers from spiritual blindness and incorrigible foolishness in his reasoning process.

Romans 1:22-25 Professing to be wise, they became fools, [23] and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. [24] Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, [25] who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Therefore, we must differentiate between *proof* and *persuasion*:

Classic Illustration: The man who thought he was dead.

The reason “evidence” for Christianity can never prove Christianity is that the unbeliever can always come up with a “rescuing device” because there are always unknowns - we do not know everything.

Consider the following lines of evidence - and each one of these certainly *confirms* Biblical Christianity, but they do not prove it.

1. The existence of *information* - Dr. Werner Gitt in his book *In the Beginning Was Information* (p.106) wrote, “There is no known law of nature, no known process, and no known sequence of events which can cause information to originate by itself in matter.” Gitt points out also that *all information* can be traced back to an intelligent mind.

⇒ **When deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) was discovered**, it became known that this incredible molecule found in the nucleus of every living cell contained an absolutely astounding amount of information - in fact, all of the instructions needed for the building of all forms of life - from ants, to trees, to human beings.

Genetic mutations do not appear to ever add information to genomes in which they occur: Dr. Lee Spetner in *Not by Chance* wrote, “All point mutations that have been studied on the molecular level turn out to reduce the genetic information and not to increase it.”

Application: Information science and genetics *confirm* Biblical creation. What we observe *does not* confirm the evolutionary atheistic worldview.

2. Carbon-14 is found in diamonds - because it does not last more than one million years. If the earth were really as old as evolutionists believe, there would be absolutely no Carbon-14 whatsoever - it would all have decayed into nitrogen. And yet, we have diamonds with C-14 in them. These diamonds are allegedly billions of years old, and yet they contain a substance

which *cannot possibly be that old*.

Application: This confirms biblical creationism.

3. Comets - as they orbit the sun, they are continually losing mass. Sometimes comets are destroyed with just one pass by the sun. The point is - comets die *very quickly*. If the solar system is really billions of years old, there should be *no comets whatsoever - none*.

So, just take these three lines of evidence and go prove to everyone that the Bible is true, they are sinners, God is holy, and that they need to repent and believe in Jesus - and it'll work, right?

While each of these 3 things *does confirm* what we would expect to find if the Bible is true, for each of them, the unbeliever can easily come up with a "rescuing device."

⇒ **People will nearly always *resist* changing their worldviews** - they will even conjecture things for which there is no evidence whatsoever in order to protect their worldview from collapsing.

For example: an "Oort cloud." Secular astronomers know that the existence of comets poses a major problem to their belief in billions of years. And so, instead of acknowledging that this might indicate a young universe, they instead posit the possible existence of an undetectable ring of comets at the outer rim of the solar system which occasionally throws one into the inner solar system. Their reasoning goes: "Comets do not last very long. But we know the solar system is billions of year old. Therefore, there must be a source of comets we can't see. There is a vast sphere of potential comets we can't see. Therefore, the universe is still billions of years old."

Response: Is there any observational evidence of this Oort cloud?

Secularist: Well, no. But you can't prove it is not there. Of course, it is very hard to disprove the existence of something you've defined as "undetectable."

Point: *But, you know what?* There might actually be an Oort cloud that is the source of comets. And therefore, the existence of comets *doesn't* prove that the universe is young or that the Bible is true.

Unbelievers can always invoke "rescuing devices." And, so can we as Christians. If someone shows you an alleged contradiction in the Bible, do you say, "Oh, ok, well, I guess I won't be a Christian any longer."

Key Point: Believers and unbeliever all have the same facts, the same science, the same physics, the same mathematics, the same fossils, canyons, planets, and comets.

⇒ **Question:** So why do we come to such radically different conclusions regarding what these facts *mean*?

⇒ **Answer:** Because we have different starting points - different worldviews - different presuppositions.

Evidence by itself will *never resolved a worldview conflict*.

⇒ **I can't overemphasize this point.** In fact, very often people will have *theological* presuppositions they are not even aware of that absolutely hold them captive as they are reading the Bible - for example: *Men must have free-will and have the ability in themselves to convert themselves by a decision*. And very often people are not even self-aware of what their presuppositions are.

⇒ **To illustrate the power a person's *unknown* presuppositions can have over them, think of it like this:** The boat and trailer illustration - the guy can hardly move the boat even with the motor turned all the way on - and *he just can't seem to figure out what is wrong.*

⇒ **And one final point:** It is not that the unbeliever doesn't have enough evidence for God's existence. It is that he is suppressing the truth in unrighteousness. He has *presuppositions, he has a worldview in place*, that is causing him to *misinterpret the evidence.*

Biblically speaking: Who needs evidence for the existence of God? Nobody.

Romans 1:20-21 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, [21] because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

We all have the same facts:

1. We both look at a dinosaur skull unearthed from the ground and we say to the unbeliever: this is great evidence of the worldwide flood. And they say, "That's not how I see it. That evidence of a slow process of fossilization that took millions of years." And both sides accuse the other of coming up with "rescuing devices."
2. Ok, how about canyon formation - Mt. Saint Helens eruption showed that canyons and layers can form very quickly. They respond with, "Well, maybe those ones did, but not these ones over here - they were slowly over millions of years."
3. Look animals reproduce according to their kinds - they don't evolve into other kinds. And they say, "Well, given enough time they can... just give it enough time."
4. DNA has information in it and requires a mind - and information never comes about in matter through chance. And they say, "well maybe there is some unknown mechanism we've not yet discovered which has the ability to bring about information. Give us time, we'll find it."
5. There's comets that exist and we know they cannot exist for billions of years. And they say, "there's an Oort cloud" out there.

*While it is not wrong to show people evidence that God's Word is true - and we should show how the evidence confirms the Bible and creation - but evidence is never decisive and decisively **worldview conflicts**. Why? Because your worldview determines *how you interpret that evidence*. And thus - a philosophically astute individual will never be persuaded by evidence or facts. Reason: If she understands her own worldview, she will have a "rescuing device" or explanation that will fit her own perspective no matter what evidence you show her.*

We cannot ever say that our worldview is correct because of the evidence because it is our worldview itself that tells us how to interpret the evidence - indeed it is our worldview which tells us what *counts* as evidence in the first place.

And thus, until you have dealt with a person's *worldview* and *presuppositions*, you have not gone deep enough to help the unbeliever see the futility of his own position.