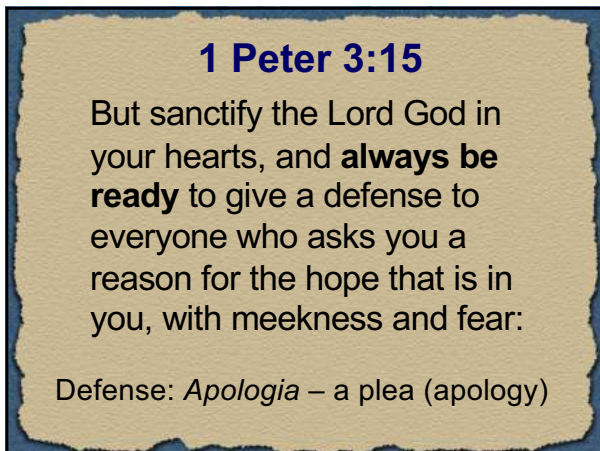




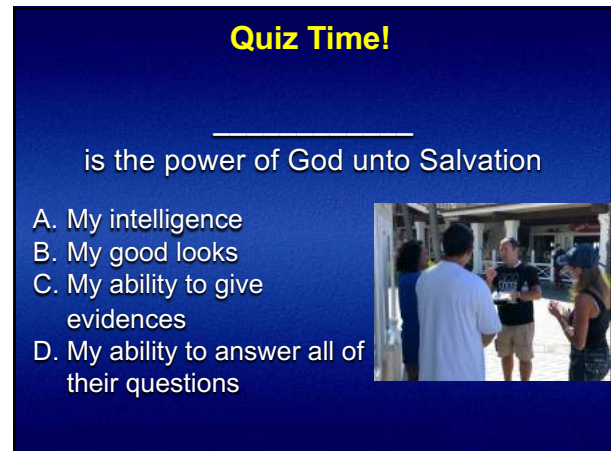
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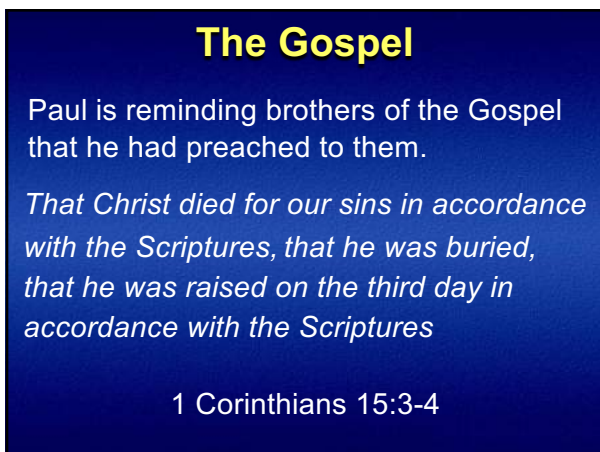
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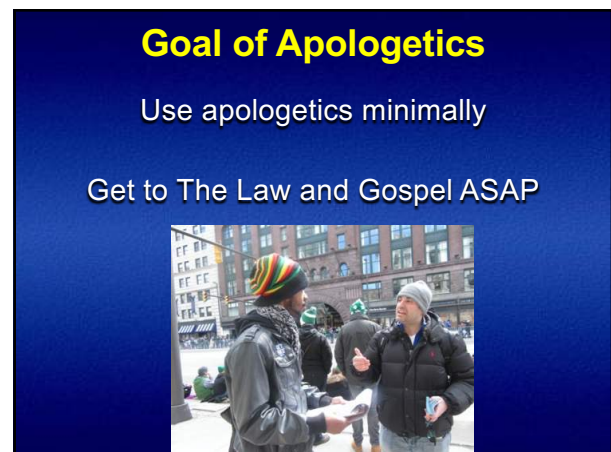
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4



5



6

The Starting Points for Apologetics

Four things we can know for sure about every person we ever talk to



7

1★ Romans 1:19-20

Everyone knows God exists.

...because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

8

2★ Romans 2:14-15

God's moral law is written in our hearts

For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, ...

9

3 Romans 1:18, 21

Suppress God due to sin

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

10

4 Romans 1:22-23, 25

People exchange the truth for idols

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

11

State 4 things that we know of every person according to Romans 1 & 2.

1. Everyone knows _____ exists
2. Everyone knows God's _____
3. The unbeliever is suppressing the _____
4. The unbeliever exchanges the truth about God for _____

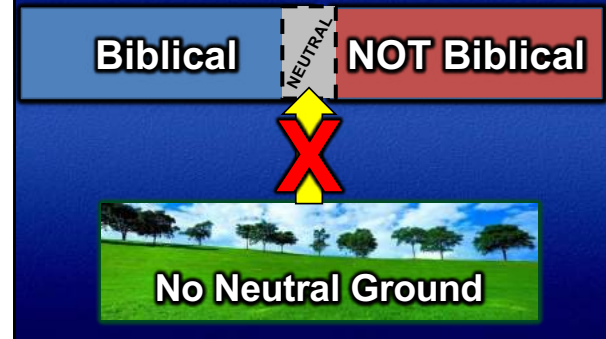
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Two Worldviews

Biblical	NOT Biblical
The Bible is THE authority in all matters	Man's wisdom is the authority

13

Neutrality and Worldviews



14

James 4:4

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

15

Question

How should I be doing apologetics?



16

3 Types of Christian Apologetics

- ◆ Evidential
- ◆ Classical ("Philosophy + evidential")
- ◆ Presuppositional



17

1. Evidential Apologetics

- ◆ Appeal to evidence (usually scientific) to support the Christian faith
- ◆ There is a great deal of evidence which is relevant to the Christian faith (Ps 19:1, archaeological, biological, geological,...)
- ◆ Evidence can be a useful tool to pull down strongholds (2 Cor 10:4-5).

18

2. Classical Apologetics

- ◆ Similar to evidential but stresses rational and philosophical arguments
- ◆ Two of the main arguments used to support (prove) the existence of God:
 - Cosmological (the first uncaused cause)
 - Teleological (design in the universe and life)

19

Evidential/Classical Apologist

- ◆ William Lane Craig
- ◆ Norman Geisler
- ◆ J. P. Moreland
- ◆ Mark Noll
- ◆ J. Warner Wallace
- ◆ Paul Copan
- ◆ Lee Strobel
- ◆ Sean McDowell
- ◆ Josh McDowell
- ◆ Hank Hanegraaff
- ◆ Frank Turek
- ◆ Lee Strobel
- ◆ Hugh Ross
- ◆ Greg Koukl
- ◆ Nancy Pearcey
- ◆ Ravi Zacharias

20

Evidential & Classical Apologetics



21

Giving the Evidences



22

Then the "knock-out" evidence...



23


In Reality...



24

A Science Example

Short-lived Comets
(lifespan up to 100,000 years)



25

Evidential & Classical Apologetics

- ◆ Starts with man's reasoning (reason, logic, scientific "facts", historical evidence,...)
- ◆ Attempts to prove the existence of God using evidences and philosophy
- ◆ The Bible never attempts to prove God's existence.
- ◆ Functionally, classical apologists sound like evidential apologists.

26

Sean McDowell, Ph.D., Professor Christian Apologetics

"In their book *Sticky Faith*, Kara Powell and Chap Clark show that young people do not often abandon their faith solely because of doubt. Rather, it is unexpressed doubt that is corrosive to faith. Believe it or not, but I still have some doubts today. I am not certain Christianity is true. I am confident, but not certain. My doubts drive me to find answers and also to rest in God's grace."

Sean McDowell (Ph.D. Professor Christian Apologetics), <https://seanmcdowell.org/blog/christian-rockstar-loses-his-faith-3-big-lessons-for-the-church>, May 27, 2020 (Regarding Jon Steingard from Band Hawk Nelson)


27

3. Presuppositional Apologetics


- ◆ A biblical method of defending the faith.
- ◆ In preparing to defend the Christian faith, the believer must understand that the conflict is a total war between two opposing worldviews.

28

Presuppositional Apologetics



Creator God
Everyone Knows God Exists
Theist
Repent & Believe the Gospel
Christian




Evidential and Classical Apologetics

Creator God
Evidence
Evidence
Evidence
Evidence
Theism
Evidence
Evidence
Atheism

29

The Word of God



Ephesians 6:11-17

30

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

31

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

32

Conclusion to Apologetics

The great thing about presuppositional apologetics is that you do not have to be a professionally trained scientist, historian, philosopher or theologian to witness for Christ.

33

Is Using Evidences Bad?

- ◆ No!
- ◆ Recognize evidences don't change the heart
- ◆ Evidences can break down strongholds
- ◆ Use evidences only to show that we have answers
- ◆ Never use evidences to prove God's existence nor the Bible's authenticity

34

Strategy For The Apologist

- ◆ The unbeliever's opposition is against the entire Christian worldview.
- ◆ The unbeliever does not care about the evidences
- ◆ The unbeliever is suppressing the truth and only cares about protecting his worldview
- ◆ Use God's Word!

35

Review

1. Everyone knows God exists
2. Everyone knows God's Moral Law
3. The unbeliever is suppressing the Truth
4. The unbeliever exchanges the truth about God for A lie (idols)
5. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation
6. Scripture is Sufficient for evangelism

36

Challenges

- ◆ False Converts
- ◆ The Bible is Untrustworthy
- ◆ How to Get to the Gospel
- ◆ “I don’t believe that Jesus is God!”
- ◆ “What about the person that grew up on a remote island?”
- ◆ Why is the Bible the correct “Holy Book”

37

The False Convert

How to help someone who thinks they are saved but whose lifestyle seems to indicate that they are not

- they are not involved with a local church (forsaking the assembly)
- they are living in sin

38

The False Convert

- ◆ Ask what the Gospel is
- ◆ Talk about the “heart change” of Ezekiel 36
- ◆ Paul anticipating challenge in Rom. 6:1-2
 - “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?”

39

The Bible is Untrustworthy

How to respond when someone claims the Bible is untrustworthy for one reason or another.

40

The Bible is Untrustworthy

- ◆ Almost always, there is something behind the question
- ◆ Ask what is untrustworthy
- ◆ Challenge him!
 - “Can you name one thing?”

41

Get to the Gospel

How to make sure you get the heart of the Gospel, no matter what distraction or challenge gets raised.



42

Get to the Gospel

- ◆ Helpful rule: Only answer 2-3 questions before getting to the Law and the Gospel
- ◆ After 1st Question: “I am happy to answer every question that you have, but I also want to have an opportunity to ask some questions.”
- ◆ “Where do you believe you will go when you die... Heaven or hell?”

43

When unbeliever is persistent...

- ◆ “How is that going to help you on Judgment day?”
- ◆ “How are your sins going to be paid for when you die?”

44

Pop Quiz!

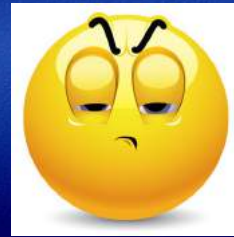
What if an unbeliever loves God and has sincere beliefs about his religion?



45

“I don’t believe Jesus is God”

How to respond to someone who is not convinced that Jesus is God



46

“I don’t believe Jesus is God”

- ◆ Explain the necessity of the hypostatic union in order to be saved
- ◆ Ask, “Why was Jesus put on the cross by the Romans and Jews?”
 - He claimed to be God numerous times

47

“I don’t believe Jesus is God”

- ◆ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. (John 8:58-59)
 - This was a reference to Exodus 3:14 (Jesus was claiming to be the “I Am” in the burning bush)

48

“I don’t believe Jesus is God”

- ◆ “But of the Son He (God the Father) says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.” (Hebrews 1:8)
- ◆ “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).” (Matt. 1:22-23)

49

What about the person on a remote island?



50

What about the person on a remote island?

- ◆ What do we know about the islander?
- ◆ God is omniscient and omnipotent
- ◆ God is always good – He will do what is right
- ◆ Right now, I am talking to you. You have heard the name of Jesus.
- ◆ This is a “Diversion Tactic”



51

“Why is the Bible the correct Holy Book”

How to respond to someone who believes that all religious books are equally valid

52

Also Stated As...



How do we know the Bible is the ultimate authority?



53

The Bible is the Ultimate Authority

For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear an oath by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ...
- Hebrews 6:13

- ◆ There is one God (And everyone knows it)
- ◆ All Scripture is God breathed
- ◆ The Bible, His Word, is truth
- ◆ He is the sovereign ruler over His creation

The answer: God says it is!

54

Internal Consistency

Prophecy

- ◆ OT contains 60 major Messianic prophecies
- ◆ 270 minor prophecies
- ◆ Odds for just 8 prophecies to be fulfilled is 1 in 100 Quadrillion (17 zeroes)

55

Isaiah 53

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Written 700 years prior !

56

What makes Christianity different from all other religions?

Other religions

Do

Christianity

Done

Grace

57

Catholics



Believe in a mix of Faith + Works

Ask: "What % Christ and % your works?"

58

Catholics

- ◆ Justification and sanctification mixed up
- ◆ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- ◆ ...He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy... (Titus 3:4-5)

59

Catholics' Objections

- ◆ James 2:17 "Faith without works is dead."
 - Talk about context of passages in the Bible. Passage starts in James 2:14.
- ◆ James 2:14- "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?"
- ◆ Ephesians 2:10

60

Catholics' Objections

- ◆ Your "Ephesians passage" talks about works in the very next verse!
- ◆ Ephesians 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

61

New Age Mysticism

- ◆ "I am spiritual"
- ◆ "I believe in a higher power"
- ◆ Energy
- ◆ There are many ways to God
- ◆ Yoga, namaste
- ◆ Karma (Law of attraction)
- ◆ We can't know anything to be true
- ◆ Contemplative prayer



62

New Age Mysticism

- ◆ Don't be afraid to use Scripture to refute anything they say
- ◆ They believe Jesus is not God
- ◆ Ask: "Can Good moral teachers & prophets lie?"
- ◆ John 14:6 – Jesus stated, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by me."
- ◆ Give the Gospel!

63

Objection

Objection: "You are not allowed to use the Bible to verify the Bible!"

- ◆ An ultimate cause cannot have something that proves it, otherwise that becomes a higher authority
- ◆ Use example of "the fastest car"

64

More Common Objections

- ◆ Homosexuality
- ◆ Transgenders
- ◆ Why do you eat pork?

65

Bible on Homosexuality (LGBTQ+)

- ◆ Homosexuality is sin
 - OT - Leviticus 18:22, 20:13
 - NT - Romans 1:26-27
 - ◆ "Contrary to nature"
- ◆ Marriage is one man and one woman from Genesis (Matt 19)
 - Jesus quoted directly from Genesis 1&2

66

Bible on Homosexuality (LGBTQ+)

◆ 1 Cor 6:9-11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

(list of sins)...nor men who practice homosexuality...will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

67

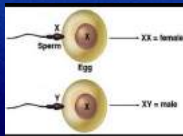
Bible on "Transgenders"



68

Bible on "Transgenders"

- ◆ Gender is inseparable from biological sex
- ◆ XX or XY from conception
- ◆ All 60 trillion cells (except red blood cells and sperm/egg) remain XX or XY from conception



69

Challenge

What about people born with both body parts (male and fem.) or other anomalies? (Klinefelter (XXY), XXX syndrome, ...)

1. These are the exception, not the rule < 1% of all live births
2. These are **mistakes**, part of the Fall, and not part of God's perfect creation

70

OT Ceremonial Law - Answer

"Your God isn't real because..."

"You eat pork!"

"God doesn't ban homosexuality because..."

"You eat shellfish!"
"You wear mixed fabric!"

71

OT Ceremonial Law

There are different types of Law in the OT

Moral Law is for all time

Ceremonial Law: specific people & time

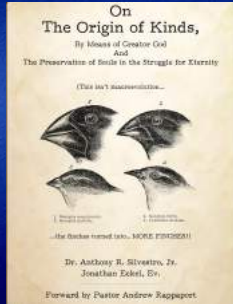
The purpose of the Ceremonial Law is no longer needed after Christ came

You are mixing Ceremonial & Moral Law

72

On The Origin of Kinds

Author: Dr. Anthony R. Silvestro, Jr



73

Andrew R. Rappaport

Systematic
Theology

Witnessing to
the Cults



74



75



76