

Apologetics 101

Saturday Seminar

February 19, 2022



Questions during the seminar? Text the word 'APOLOGETICS' and your question to (704) 313-8643.

WHAT IS APOLOGETICS?

Session #1

MISSION:

Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- The Message -
- The Promise -

David Bosch - "Mission is more and different from recruitment to our brand of religion; it is alerting people to the universal reign of God through Christ."

Summary Passage of Apologetics:

1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

The "What" of Apologetics:

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

The “Why” of Apologetics:

The “How” of Apologetics:

1)

2)

The Problem of Sin

Your Sin

Their Sin

- Sin affects the _____ - 2 Corinthians 4:1-4

- Sin affects the _____ - Romans 1:18-23

- Sin affects the _____ - 1 Peter 3:16

Summary Definition:

Christian apologetics is the task of defending the Christian faith with gentleness and respect, leading others to hope in Jesus for the glory of Christ.

ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS

Session #2

Question #1 - How can you trust the Bible?

Evidence for the Bible's accuracy:

1. The _____ and _____ of original manuscripts.

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	# of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Plato	427-347 B.C.	A.D. 900	7	N/A
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	A.D. 900	10	N/A
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	A.D. 1100	49	N/A
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	643	95%
New Testament	A.D. 50-100	A.D. 130	5600	99.5%

2. The _____ of the New Testament.

3. The content of the gospels is _____.

4. Jesus _____ and _____ the Old Testament.

5. The _____ of the New Testament Canon.

Question #2 - Isn't it arrogant to claim that Jesus is the only way to Heaven?

Four problems with this story/claim:

1. In an effort to respect all _____, this story respects no _____.

2. Who gets to _____ it's an elephant?

3. It is not _____ to claim a hold of _____ truth.

4. You can claim Christianity _____, but that means the fault is with you, not with the truth.

Question #3 - How could a good God allow suffering?

Richard Dawkins - "Our universe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference."

**All theology is _____.

Philosophical Responses:

Three faulty presuppositions that have to be addressed.

1. In order for there to be a reason for why God allows something to happen, you have to _____ it.

2. In order for there to be a reason for why God allows something to happen, we have to _____ with it.

- Isaiah 55:8-9

3. We can have an objective sense of _____ and _____, _____ and _____ apart from God.

C.S. Lewis - "My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of "just" and "unjust"?...What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? ... Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too - for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies...Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple."

Tim Keller - "If you are sure that this natural world is unjust and filled with evil, you are assuming the reality of some extra-natural (or supernatural) standard by which to make your judgment."

Personal Responses:

- John 11

Tim Keller - "If we ask the question: 'Why does God allow evil and suffering to continue?' and we look at the cross of Jesus, we still do not know what the answer is. However, we now know what the answer isn't. It can't be that He doesn't love us. It can't be that He is indifferent or detached from our condition. God takes our misery and suffering so seriously that He was willing to take it on Himself."

Question #5 - How can a loving God send good people to hell?

Bible:

- Genesis 3:1-7
- Romans 5:12
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-22
- Psalm 51:5
- Romans 3:10-12

_____ and _____ don't just co-exist, they must go together.

Becky Pippert - "Think how we feel when we see someone we love ravaged by unwise actions or relationships. Do we respond with benign tolerance as might towards strangers? Far from it...anger isn't the opposite of love. Hate is, and the final form of hate is indifference....God's wrath is not a cranky explosion, but His settled opposition to the cancer....which is eating out the insides of the human race he loves with his whole being."

Rebecca McLaughlin - "Heaven is home: an embodied experience of deep relationship with God and His people on a recreated earth."

Tim Keller - "All God does in the end with people is give them what they most want, including freedom from himself. It's not that God is stiff arming people out of heaven. He's giving them what they want."

QUESTIONING THE ANSWERS

Session #3

Evidence #1 - The Case of Morality

Main Question → If there is no God, what basis remains for objective good or bad, right or wrong?

Richard Dawkins - "In a world without God, there is no evil and no good. Nothing but blind, pitiless indifference."

Summary of Moral Argument:

1. If God does not exist, _____ and _____ do not exist.

2. _____ and _____ do exist.

3. Therefore, _____ exists.

Evidence #2 - Origin, Beauty, and Design

1. There is _____, rather than _____.

2. The _____ we have can support life.

Francis Collins - "When you look from the perspective of a scientist at the universe, it looks as if it knew we were coming. There are 15 constants - the gravitational constant, various constants about the strong and weak nuclear force, etc. - that have precise values. If any one of those constants was off by even one part in a million, or in some cases, by one part in a million million, the universe could not have actually come to the point where we see it. Matter would not have been able to coalesce, there would have been no galaxy, stars, planets or people."

3. The _____ we have is beautiful.

- Ecclesiastes 3:11
- Romans 1:20

Explanations:

1. The Conspiracy Theory
2. The Apparent Death Theory
3. The Displaced Body Theory
4. The Hallucination Theory

Peter Slezak - "For a God who is able to create the entire universe, the odd resurrection would be child's play!"

