

November 16, 2022

Defending Your Faith From Common Objections

What are we defending? What tools do we need?

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.”

1 Corinthian 2:1-4 – “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you *the testimony of God* with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except *Jesus Christ and him crucified*. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in *demonstration of the Spirit and of power*, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Apologetical Methods To Defend Your Faith (2 of the 4 from week two)

Classical Apologetics – Begins by arguing first for theism and then shows why Christianity is the most plausible form of theism.

Presuppositional Apologetics – Begins with and attempts to undermine non-Christian worldviews by showing with reason that without the Christian God, they cannot consistently claim meaning, truth, or logic.

Some Common Objections To Consider

1. How can you be so intolerant as to believe that Christianity is the only way? // Don't you think that all religions are just different roads that lead up to the top of the same mountain?

Is what they are questioning (objecting to) accurate?

John 14:6 – “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

Acts 4:12 – “And there is salvation in no one else for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

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Identify what the unbeliever does not understand about the gospel by their question.

Isaiah 43:11 – “I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.”

Isaiah 45:5a – “I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God.”

How would you respond by using a classical approach? How would you respond by using a presuppositional approach?

2. How can you believe in a God that will eternally condemn people who... never had a chance to hear the gospel in their lifetime?

Is what they are questioning (objecting to) accurate?

Romans 1:19-20 – “For what can be known about God is plain to them [ungodly people], because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

Identify what the unbeliever does not understand about the gospel by their question.

Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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How would you respond by using a classical approach? How would you respond by using a presuppositional approach?

3. Why should we believe in an ancient book written by dead Jewish males?

Is what they are questioning (objecting to) accurate?

Romans 10:9-10 – “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and *believe* in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one *believes* and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”

Identify what the unbeliever does not understand about the gospel by their question.

Hebrews 4:12 – “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. That the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

How would you respond by using a classical approach? How would you respond by using a presuppositional approach?

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4. If God is so good why does he allow evil and suffering such as the Holocaust or 9/11 to happen?

Is what they are questioning (objecting to) accurate?

Identify what the unbeliever does not understand about the gospel by their question.

How would you respond by using a classical approach? How would you respond by using a presuppositional approach?

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Reflection From The Week:

Think about how you might answer the question, “How would you respond?” differently based on whom you were talking with. Make sure to finish the fourth scenario above if you haven’t already done so.

Further Resources:

Chatraw, Joshua D. and Mark D. Allen. *Apologetics At The Cross: An Introduction for Christian Witness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2018.

Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 1980.

Newman, Randy. *Questioning Evangelism: Engaging People’s Heart the Way Jesus Did*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2004.

Van Til, Cornelius. *Christian Apologetics*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1976.