

**Apologetics: The Battle For Truth**

Presented by Eric Douma

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Where Are We Going Here?

1. The Case for Apologetics
2. Our choice of an “apologetic model” to follow for the course
3. The battle for truth. Can we know anything at all?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

What is Apologetics?

- Apologetic comes from the Greek word- apologia which means apology. (Acts 26:2 apologeomai) (A-PAUL-AGETIC)
- This does not mean we are studying how to apologize to people!
- Apologetics is the reasoned defense of the Christian faith.

1. Our faith is more than mere reason
2. But our faith is reasonable!

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Biblical Case For Apologetics

- Genesis 3:1b "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'  
lkm= from/every or all
- Satan was trying to distort God's prohibition and make Adam and Eve think it was unreasonable!
- Genesis 3:2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Biblical Case For Apologetics

- 1st Peter 3:15 ...but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence...
- Acts 19:8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.
- Jude 1:3b ...I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### *Three Main Approaches To Apologetics*

- Classical Apologetics: Philosophical arguments for God's existence are emphasized before turning to the specific case for Christian revelation claims.
- Evidential Apologetics: Empirical arguments about the life, miracles, death and resurrection of Christ are presented as probabilistic proofs.
- Presuppositional Apologetics: Argues that belief in Jesus Christ must be presupposed, and from that vantage point non-theistic assumptions are proven to be fallacious.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Primary Difference In The Three Approaches

- Classical apologetics differs from Evidential and Presuppositional apologetics primarily in the area of general revelation. Classical (Thomistic) apologetics holds to the notion that general revelation is indeed biblical and can lead people to some true knowledge about God.
- We therefore can conclude that what the Bible actually says about general revelation should determine which model of apologetics we adopt.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Case For General Revelation

- Psalm 19:1-2 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.
- Romans 1:18-19 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Case For General Revelation

- Romans 1:20 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.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## The Case For Classical Apologetics

➤ Weakness of Evidential Apologetics:

1. Uses historical evidence like resurrection (Which is Good!)
2. But it fails to prove a theistic worldview where miracles are possible.

Atheistic Worldview

1. Miracles are not possible
2. Resurrection is a miracle
3. Resurrection not possible

Theistic Worldview

1. Miracles are possible
2. Resurrection is a miracle
3. Resurrection is possible

---

---

---

---

---

---

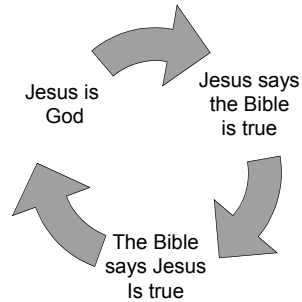
---

---

## The Case For Classical Apologetics

➤ Weakness of Presuppositional Apologetics:

1. It begs the question it sets out to answer!



---

---

---

---

---

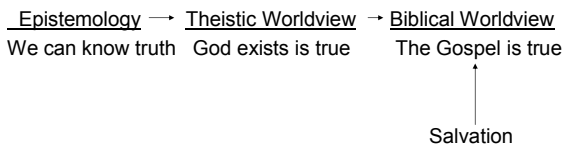
---

---

---

## The Case For Classical Apologetics

- Classical apologetics seeks to use the best arguments available to move people to a theistic worldview for the purpose of being able to teach them the Scriptures.



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### A Brief History of The Battle For Truth

- 1517 Reformation
- 1545-1563 Council of Trent
- 1618-1648 Thirty Years War
- 1650-1880's Rationalism (Spinoza, Leibniz,)
- 1650-1880' Empiricism (Locke, Hume) ← Enlightenment
- Kant
- 1770-1918 Romanticism (Hegel, Feuerbach, Marx)
- 1945-2009 Postmodernism (Europe first – United States)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Key Enlightenment Figures

- Benedict Spinoza: 1632-1677 Born in Amsterdam
- Pantheist (Creation Ex Deo not Ex Nihilo)
- Two works – Theologico Politicus, Tractatus Politicus

Rationalistic and Anti-supernatural

1. Miracles are impossible
2. Came up with axioms without observation (a priori)
3. Self defeating deterministic system of “natural law”

If everything is determined, so is the view that determinism is wrong!

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Key Enlightenment Figures

- Gottfried Leibniz 1646-1716 Born in Germany
- Theist
- Heavily Influenced by Spinoza’s ideas
- ❖ Main Enlightenment idea: Humans are born with an innate “storehouse” of ideas waiting only to be activated.
- This is problematic to Biblical Christianity because Leibniz’s view allows for humans to “reason in a corner” to all truth irrespective of general or special revelation! (Rationalism)

Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Key Enlightenment Figures

- David Hume 1711-1776 Born in Scotland
- Empirical Skepticism – He claimed to suspend all judgment about the existence of God and other metaphysical questions.
- He believed that unless something is based on sense experience, it is not valid or true.
- Hume tried to get around a necessary cause in two ways:
  1. Infinite series of causes – Answer: An infinite regression is tantamount to affirming that the existence in the series arises from nonexistence, since no cause in the series has a real ground for its existence.
  2. Chance can create – Answer: Chance has no being!

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Kantian Synthesis: A Precursor To Postmodernism

- Immanuel Kant 1724-1804 Born in East Prussia
- Rationalists (Leibniz): People have innate knowledge. (a priori)  
↓  
Kant's synthesis  
↓  
Empiricists (Hume): Only what one observes is real. (a posteriori)
- ❖ Kant's Synthesis That Leads To Postmodernism:
  1. Humans do not have innate ideas as rationalists claim.
  2. Humans do not have access to the *noumenal* (real) world through observations as empiricists claim.
  3. Humans are instead, stuck in the *phenomenal* world. This is the way the world merely appears to us.
- Answer: Kant's argument is self refuting because it asserts that reality cannot be known. His statement is, itself, a statement about reality! Why should we take Kant seriously?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Fideism: The Consequence of Kant

- Since rationalist and empiricist philosophers and theologians were denying the truth claims of Christianity, Kant's view was looked on by many theologians as a "way out."
- Since no one can know reality (Kant), Christianity is as viable as any other religious or philosophical world view.
- Fideism (Fide = Latin for faith) teaches that we don't have reasons for our faith (because we can't know), and therefore we merely have "blind faith."
- 1. Soren Kierkegaard →
  2. Karl Barth →
  3. Emergent Leaders →

We can't know, we must merely believe. Faith is irrational!

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Three Theories of Truth

- **Correspondence theory of truth:** A belief, thought, statement or representation is true if it corresponds to reality.
- **Pragmatic theory of truth:** A belief, thought, statement or representation is true if it is useful.
- **Coherence theory of truth:** A belief, thought, statement or representation is true if it coheres to an internal, established set of beliefs.

Postmodernism is predicated on the coherence theory of truth. Notice that reality is thought not to be attainable (Kant).

---

---

---

---

---

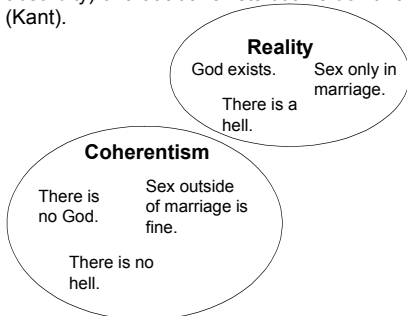
---

---

---

### The Irreconcilable Problem With Postmodernism

- Postmodernism asserts either that there is no truth (an absurdity) or that truth exists but we don't have access to it (Kant).



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### WE CAN KNOW TRUTH!!!

1. The idea that there is no truth cannot be true, because to affirm this idea is to assert a truth (it is true that there is no truth).
2. Kant cannot be right because if he is right, then he has proven himself wrong! (It is a fact of reality that we cannot know reality).
3. It violates the law of non-contradiction to be right and non-right regarding an argument at the same time and in the same relationship.

POSTMODERNISM IS RATIONALLY IMPOSSIBLE!!!

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Real Reason For Postmodernism

- > Isaiah 45:19 "I Yahweh speak righteousness, I declare what is right."
- > Proverbs 14:25 "A truthful witness saves lives, but one who utters lies is a betrayer."
- > John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."

New Testament = alhqeia – The state of affairs that corresponds to reality.

Old Testament = tma- The state of affairs that corresponds to reality.

The Real Reason For Postmodernism: Romans 1:28 "And just as they did not approve to have God in knowledge, God gave them over to a depraved mind..."

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Hegelian Dialect: The Engine Of Emergents

- > Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel -1770-1831 Born in Wurtemberg Germany
- Hegel took from Spinoza the idea of the inseparability of God from nature. This led to his antsupernaturalism and panentheism.
- Gustav Mueller (Hegelian expert) contends that the famous Hegelian dialectic of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis was not original to Hegel, but imposed upon him by the misreading of one of his students –Karl Marx.
- Hegel's dialectic – God exists in a panentheistic form with two polls. One poll is God and the other is the world. Hegel taught that the world must be merged into God over time and thus they would lose their separate identities. Man is the contact point between God and creation since he is both spirit and nature.
- The incarnation is where the God/man duality is overcome.

---

---

---

---

---

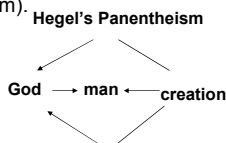
---

---

---

### The Hegelian Dialect: The Engine Of Emergent Intellectuals

- > Hegel continued...
- Hegel maintained that when Jesus died, both God and man died. When the resurrection occurred, neither God nor man rose, but Absolute Spirit which God and man merged into.
- Hegel's panentheism is what drives the intellectuals of the emerging church. They believe that God is "drawing" all creation into Himself because it is part of Him (one of the two polls). God will therefore never judge anyone because He would therefore be judging Himself (since the creation is in Him).



1. God is two natures, Himself and creation.

2. Man is the contact point between the two natures of God.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---