

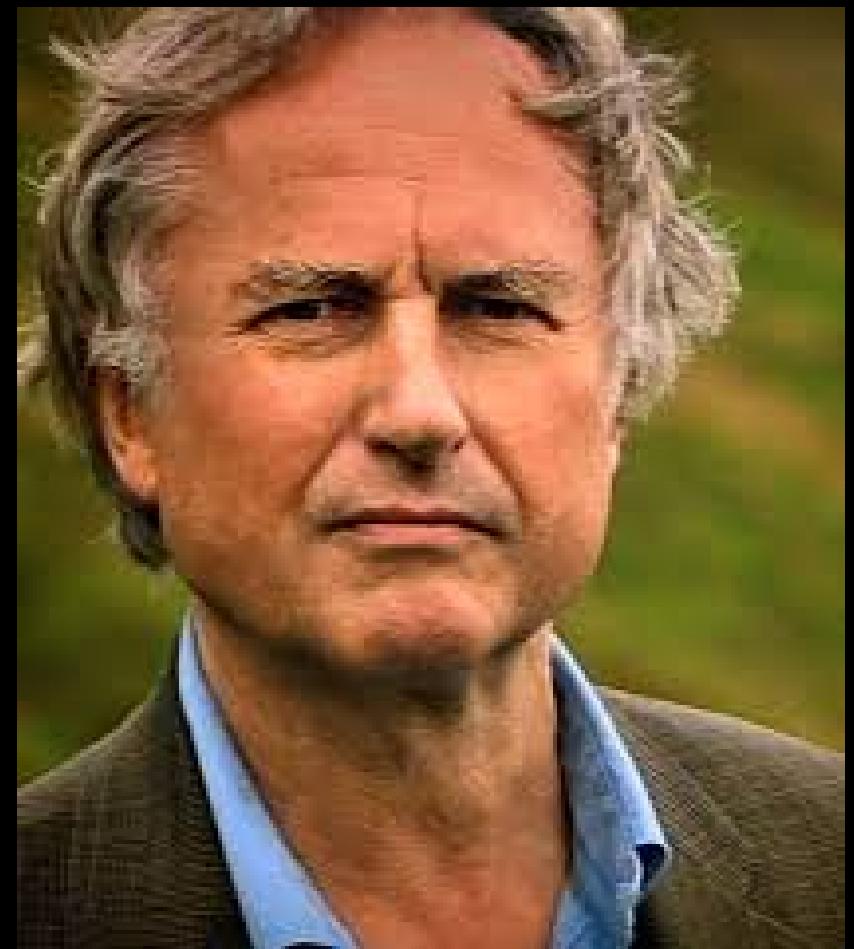
# *Apologetics*

*depro personalis mif*

# Intro to Apologetics

*“The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”*

*Richard Dawkins*  
*“The God Delusion”*



# Intro to Apologetics

*90% of youth active in high school church programs drop out of church by the time they are sophomores on college.*

*[The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church]*

*Church youth already are “lost” in their hearts and minds in elementary, middle and high school – not in college as many assume.*

*[Already Gone: Why your kids will quit church and what you can do to stop it]*

# Intro to Apologetics

## Why Christian Kids Leave the Faith

*“They leave because they have troubling, unanswered questions about the faith... They leave because their faith is not working for them... They leave because they have allowed other things to take priority... They leave because they never personally owned their faith.”*

*Tom Bisset*

# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Evangelism?

# Intro to Apologetics

*“Evangelism’ is generally understood to mean sharing the good news message (gospel) about Jesus Christ. Apologetics is best seen as either pre-evangelism or as part of the process of evangelism. It removes barriers to belief and prepares the ground for the seed of the gospel to be sown. It is vital not to divorce apologetics strictly from evangelism.”*

[<http://www.bethinking.org>]

# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Bible Verses

# Intro to Apologetics

ἀπολογία

apologia

*apo* (off/away) + *logia* (words/speech)

= “speak away”

= defend with words

# Intro to Apologetics

*...you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*

[1 Peter 3:15-16a NLT]

# Intro to Apologetics

*“Brothers and esteemed fathers,” Paul said, “listen to me as I offer my defense.”*

[Acts 22:1 NLT]

# Intro to Apologetics

*The governor then motioned for Paul to speak. Paul said, “I know, sir, that you have been a judge of Jewish affairs for many years, so I gladly present my defense before you.*

[Acts 24:10 NLT]

# Intro to Apologetics

*So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News.*

*[Phillipians 1:7 NLT]*

# Intro to Apologetics

Ἐπαγωνίζομαι

epagonizomai

*epi* (against) + *agonizomai* (strive/contend/compete)  
= “strive against”  
= defend

# Intro to Apologetics

*Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.*

[*Jude 1:3 NLT*]

# Intro to Apologetics

διακατελέγυχομαι

diakatelegxomai

*dia* (thorough) + *kata* (against) + *elegxo* (convict)  
= “back-and-forth until finished”  
= completely refute

# Intro to Apologetics

*He refuted the Jews with powerful arguments in public debate. Using the Scriptures, he explained to them that Jesus was the Messiah.*

[Acts 18:28 NLT]

# Intro to Apologetics

διαλέγομαι

dialogomai

*dia* (through/across) + *lego* (speak to conclusion)  
= “back-and-forth thought exchange till done”  
= reason/discuss/argue

# Intro to Apologetics

*As was Paul's custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people.*

[Acts 17:2 NLT]

# Intro to Apologetics

παιδεύω

paideuo

*pais* = child training/discipline

# Intro to Apologetics

*A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.*

[2 Timothy 2:24-25 NLT]

# Intro to Apologetics

*“Christians are not to be spineless pushovers who allow anyone to say anything they want – especially as it pertains to the gospel... There is a difference between gentleness and negligence. Exposing error necessitates negative facts, but it always has a positive goal rooted and grounded in the gospel of Jesus Christ.”*

[<http://www.deliveredbygrace.com/>]

# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Reasons Against?

# Intro to Apologetics

*“But before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into synagogues and prisons, and you will stand trial before kings and governors because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me. So don’t worry in advance about how to answer the charges against you, for I will give you the right words and such wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to reply or refute you!*

[Luke 21:12-15 NLT]

# Intro to Apologetics

*And my message and my preaching were very plain.  
Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I  
relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this  
so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the  
power of God.*

*[1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NLT]*

# Intro to Apologetics

## Myths About Apologetics

Apologetics is about arguing	Apologetics is only for professionals
Apologetics is a purely academic exercise	You need to go to school to be an apologist
Apologetics is only a means of evangelism	Apologetics will ruin your faith
Apologetics only concerns philosophy	There is no place for apologetics in the church

## Intro to Apologetics

**GOD DOESN'T  
NEED DEFENDING  
BUT PEOPLE NEED HELP UNDERSTANDING**

# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Reasoning Types

# Intro to Apologetics

<h2>Abductive Reasoning</h2>		
Incomplete observations -> best explanation		
Best explanation possible (most reasonable) with available information		
What is most likely true?		
Used in medical diagnosis, criminal cases/trials, history research, car mechanics, etc.		

# Intro to Apologetics

Abductive Reasoning	Inductive Reasoning	
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# Intro to Apologetics

Abductive Reasoning	Inductive Reasoning	Deductive Reasoning
Incomplete observations -> best explanation	Specific observations -> general conclusion	General assumptions -> specific conclusion
Best explanation possible (most reasonable) with available information	Certainty of explanation depends on amount of evidence used	Conclusion is guaranteed if premises are true
What is most likely true?	What seems to be most true?	What is true?
Used in medical diagnosis, criminal cases/trials, history research, car mechanics, etc.	Used in science	Used in math and logic

# Intro to Apologetics

## Abductive Reasoning

- Jesus died during the crucifixion
- Jesus was buried in a tomb for 3 days and 3 nights
- Disciples claimed to see and talk to Jesus after resurrection
- Doubters were not able to produce body of Jesus after resurrection
- Disciples died for their belief in the resurrection of Jesus
- So the resurrection probably occurred

# Intro to Apologetics

Abductive Reasoning	Inductive Reasoning	
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# Intro to Apologetics

Abductive Reasoning	Inductive Reasoning	Deductive Reasoning
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# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Types/Methods

# Intro to Apologetics

## Apologetic Types

<p><b>Classical</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- From God (through natural theology) to miracles</li><li>- Two-step approach</li></ul> <p><i>[William Lane Craig, R.C. Sproul, Norman Geisler]</i></p>	

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Presuppositional	
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# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Popular Challenges

# Intro to Apologetics



February 14 at 12:35am ·

Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent.

Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent.

Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil?

Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?

~ Epicurus (unconfirmed)

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5

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Logical Problem of Evil

# Intro to Apologetics

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If God is all-good, then He would want to create a world with no suffering

# Intro to Apologetics

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If God is all-good, then He would want to create a world with no suffering

If God is all-powerful, He could prevent all suffering in the world

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Logical Problem of Evil

If God is all-good, then He would want to create a world with no suffering

If God is all-powerful, He could prevent all suffering in the world

The world contains suffering, and God did not prevent it, so either he is not all-good, or all-powerful, or does not exist

# Intro to Apologetics

*“...most [atheists] have conceded that in fact there isn't any inconsistency between the existence of an omnipotent, omniscient, and wholly good God and the existence of the evil the world contains...”*

*Alvin Plantinga*

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Logical Problem of Evil

The existence of evil in the world is incompatible with the existence of an All Powerful, All Knowing and All Good God. However, we know that there is evil in the world, hence this is proof that God does not exist.

# Intro to Apologetics

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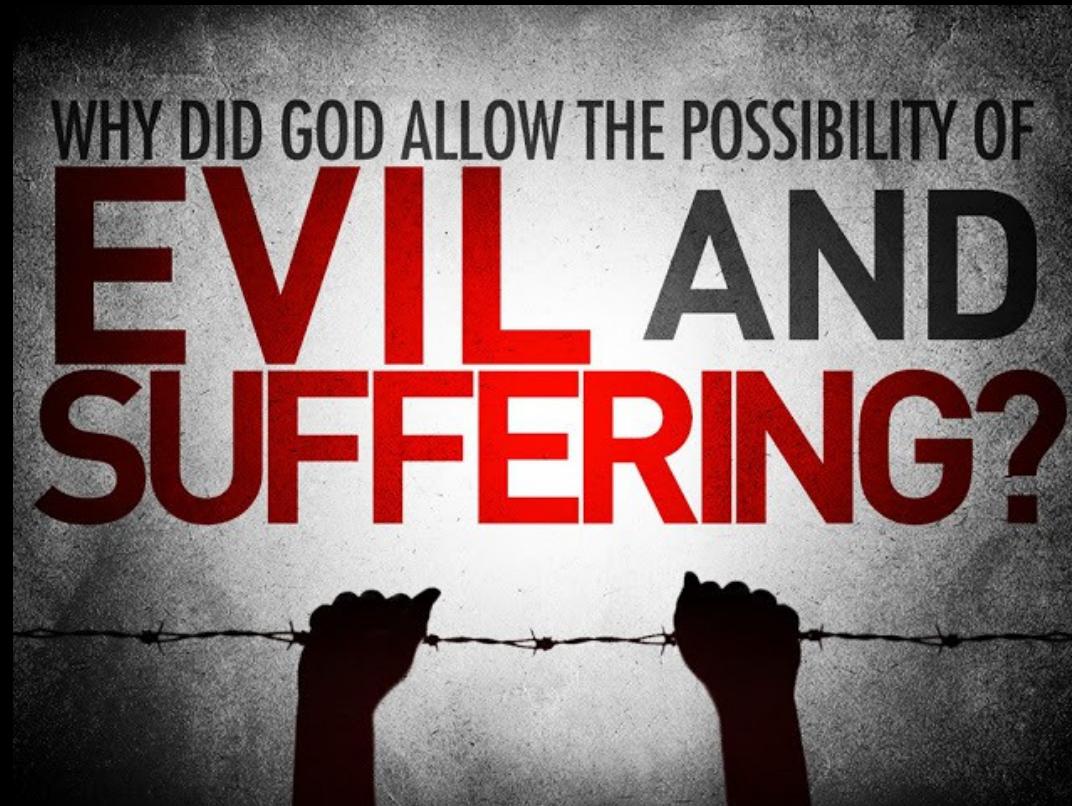
## The Probabilistic Problem of Evil

The coexistence of God and evil is logically possible, however it is still highly improbable. The degree and intensity of evil in the world are so great that it is improbable that God could have morally sufficient reasons for permitting it. Therefore, given the evil in the world, it is improbable that God exists.

# Intro to Apologetics

Theodicy:

The study of the problem of evil in the world



# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Some Bad Arguments

# Intro to Apologetics



## The Parable of the Invisible Gardener

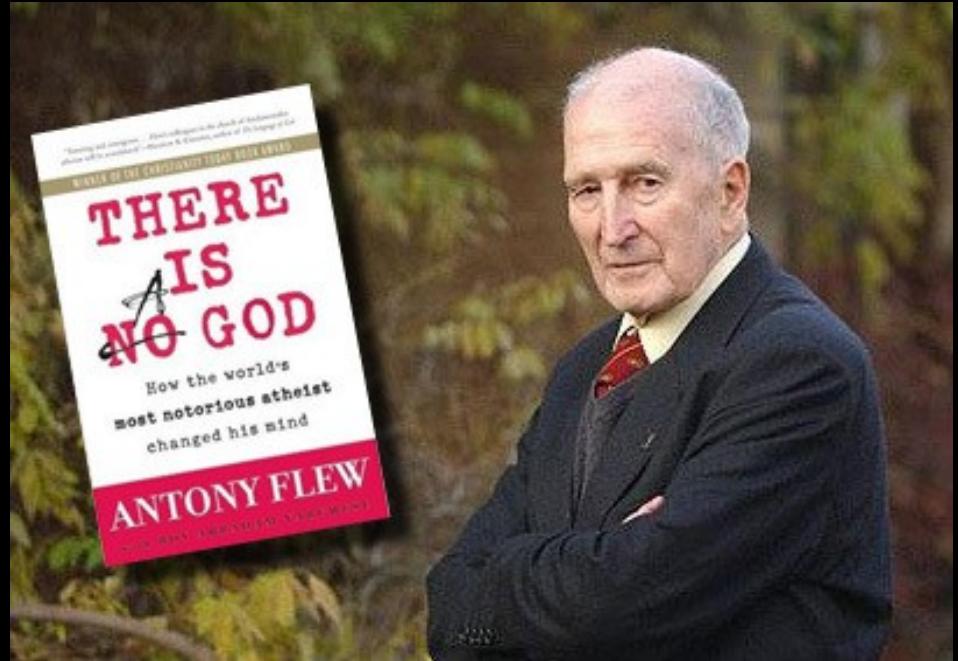
The story of a mysterious garden, where the gardener never showed up, and yet was claimed to be involved.

# Intro to Apologetics



## The Parable of the Invisible Gardener

The story of a mysterious garden, where the gardener never showed up, and yet was claimed to be involved.



Anthony Flew  
Atheist who became a Theist

# Intro to Apologetics



## Russell's Teapot

The philosophic burden  
of proof lies upon a  
person making  
scientifically  
unfalsifiable claims

# Intro to Apologetics



## Russell's Teapot

The philosophic burden of proof lies upon a person making scientifically unfalsifiable claims



## Invisible Pink Unicorn

The existence of an invisible pink unicorn cannot be disproven

# Intro to Apologetics



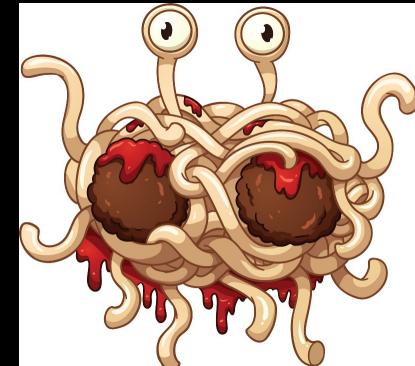
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## Flying Spaghetti Monster

The burden of proof lies upon those who make unfalsifiable claims, not on those who reject them

# Intro to Apologetics



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## Pssst! Don't tell the creationists, but scientists don't have a clue how life began

By John Horgan on February 28, 2011

# Intro to Apologetics

*“Creationists are no doubt thrilled that origin-of-life research has reached such an impasse...but they shouldn't be. Their explanations suffer from the same flaw: What created the divine Creator? And at least scientists are making an honest effort to solve life's mystery instead of blaming it all on God.”*

[John Horgan, <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/>]

# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Some Good Arguments

# Intro to Apologetics

## Pascal's Wager

*"...you must wager. It is not optional. You are embarked. Which will you choose then?...Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that God is. Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation that He is."*

*Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)*

# Intro to Apologetics

## Pascal's Wager

	GOD EXISTS	GOD DOES NOT EXIST
BELIEVE IN GOD	Infinite Gain (in Heaven)	Insignificant Loss
DISBELIEVE IN GOD	Infinite Loss (in Hell)	Insignificant Gain

# Intro to Apologetics

## SYLLOGISM

A *syllogism* is a kind of logical argument that applies deductive reasoning to arrive at a conclusion based on two or more propositions that are asserted or assumed to be true

# Intro to Apologetics

## SYLLOGISM

Syllogism Format	
<i>Major premise</i>	
<i>Minor premise</i>	
<i>Conclusion</i>	

# Intro to Apologetics

## SYLLOGISM

Syllogism Format	Syllogism Example
<i>Major premise</i>	<i>God loves all persons</i>
<i>Minor premise</i>	<i>Darren is a person</i>
<i>Conclusion</i>	<i>God loves Darren</i>

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Ontological Argument

The *ontological* argument was first clearly stated and developed by Anselm of Canterbury (1033–1109 AD). It is not based on *observation*, but *reason* only. Ontology is the *study of being*.

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Ontological Argument

God is the greatest conceivable being

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Ontological Argument

God is the greatest conceivable being

A being that exists in reality is greater than one that only exists in one's mind

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A necessarily-existing being is greater than a merely possible being

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Ontological Argument

God is the greatest conceivable being

A being that exists in reality is greater than one that only exists in one's mind

A necessarily-existing being is greater than a merely possible being

Therefore God must exist

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Teleological Argument

The *teleological* argument was used by St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274 AD), but popularized and clarified by William Paley (1743-1805 AD) in his ‘Watchmaker’ argument. *Teleology* is the philosophical attempt to describe things in terms of their apparent *purpose*, *directive principle*, or *goal*.

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Teleological Argument

Order and useful arrangement in a system imply intelligence, purpose, and design.

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Teleological Argument

Order and useful arrangement in a system imply intelligence, purpose, and design.

The universe is characterized by intricate design.

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Teleological Argument

Order and useful arrangement in a system imply intelligence, purpose, and design.

The universe is characterized by intricate design.

Therefore the universe has a Designer.

# Intro to Apologetics

*The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.*

[*Psalm 19:1 NLT*]

*For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*

[*Romans 1:20 NLT*]

# Intro to Apologetics

## Apologetics: Review

# Intro to Apologetics

*“Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.”*

*C. S. Lewis*

# Intro to Apologetics

*"Evangelism' is generally understood to mean sharing the good news message (gospel) about Jesus Christ. Apologetics is best seen as either pre-evangelism or as part of the process of evangelism. It removes barriers to belief and prepares the ground for the seed of the gospel to be sown. It is vital not to divorce apologetics strictly from evangelism."*

[<http://www.bethinking.org>]

# Intro to Evangelism

## Steps to Peace with God

Step 1. UNDERSTAND GOD'S PURPOSES— PEACE & ETERNAL LIFE

Step 2. ADMIT THE PROBLEM— OUR SIN & SEPARATION

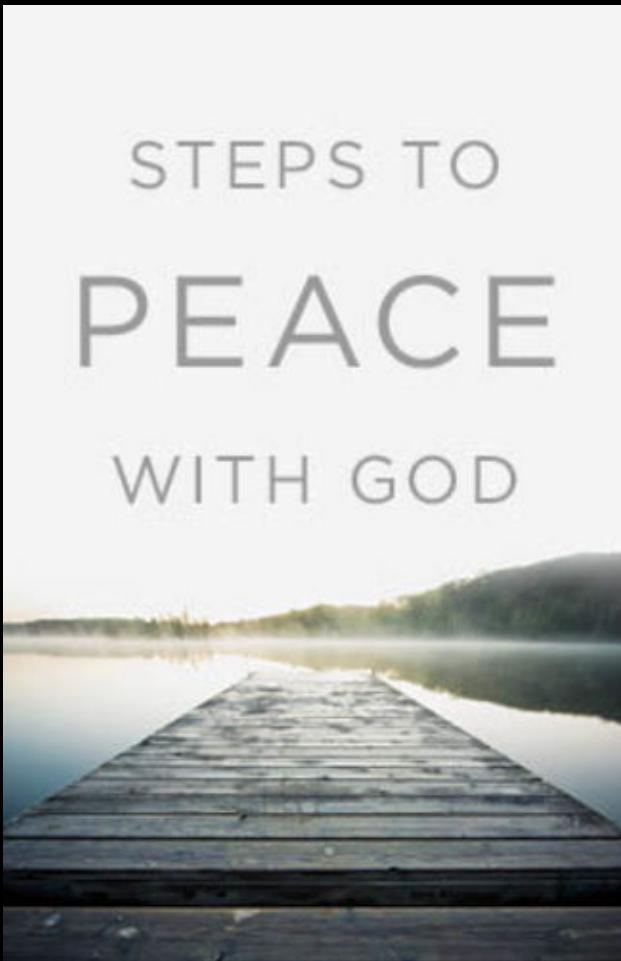
Step 3. DISCOVER GOD'S BRIDGE— THE CROSS

Step 4. EMBRACE THE TRUTH— RECEIVE CHRIST

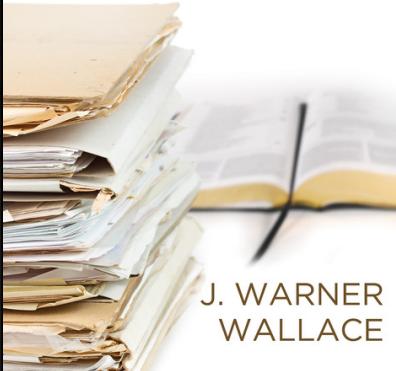
- *Admit your need—that you are a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.*
- *Be willing to turn from trusting in anything else for eternal life and trust only in Christ.*
- *Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross, came back to life from the grave, and is your only way to heaven.*
- *Receive Jesus's offer to forgive your sins and come into your life as your Savior.*

STEP 5. YOU MAY WANT TO TELL HIM IN WORDS LIKE THESE:

*Dear Jesus, thank you for making it possible for me to find peace with God! I believe that when you died you were paying the penalty for my sins. I now receive you into my life as my Savior, so I can have forgiveness and never-ending life from God! Thank you for the gift of eternal life!*

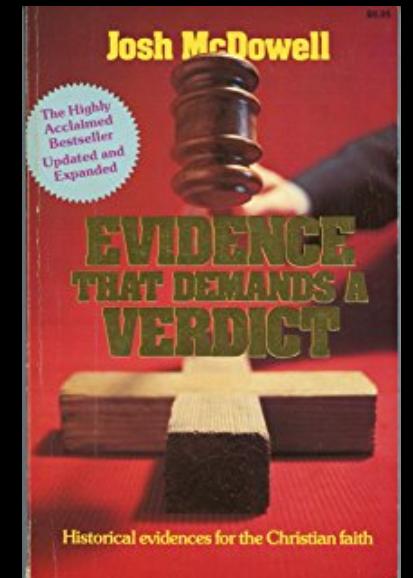
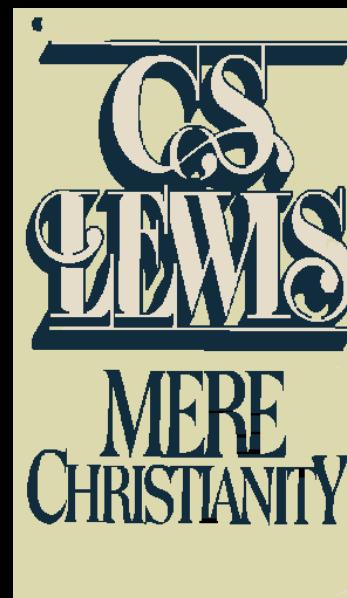
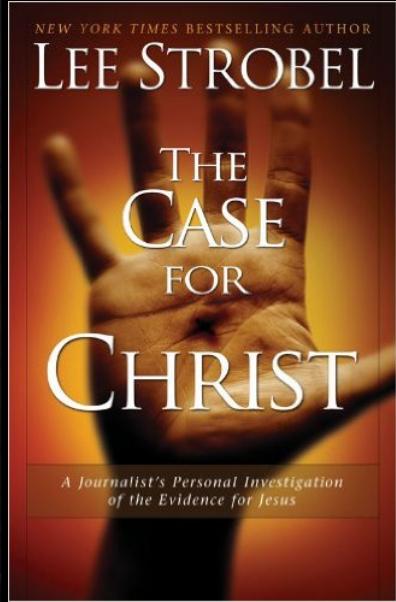
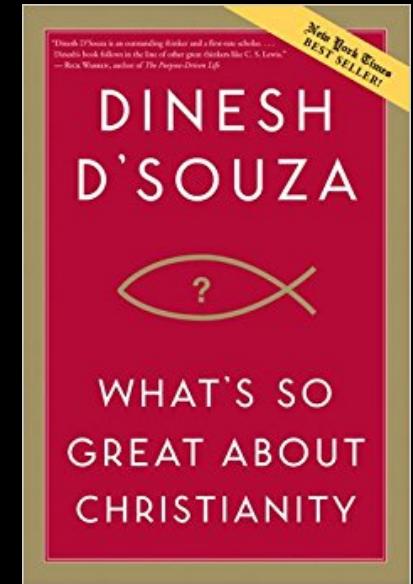
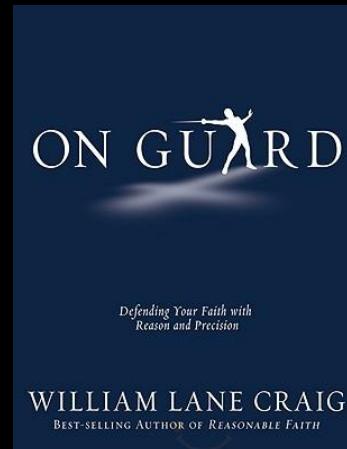


# COLD-CASE CHRISTIANITY



J. WARNER  
WALLACE

# Intro to Apologetics



# Intro to Apologetics

*...you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*

[1 Peter 3:15-16a NLT]

# Intro to Apologetics

APOLOGETICS  
*is not about apologizing.*

*Apologetics is answering the*  
**TOUGH QUESTIONS**  
*people have about the*  
**CHRISTIAN FAITH.**

-JOHN ANKERBERG

## Intro to Apologetics

**GOD DOESN'T  
NEED DEFENDING  
BUT PEOPLE NEED HELP UNDERSTANDING**

# Intro to Apologetics

*"I learned to read and understand biblical Hebrew...I studied Budism, Judiasm, Islam and Christianity in the period of four years before starting on my path to conversion. I met with many pastors, Rabis etc. But what bothered me the most is all the information I got from Rabbis I took back to pastors and asked them to explain and they never had the answers. All I ever got was just have faith, just believe. But no explanations."*

T.Z.

# Intro to Apologetics



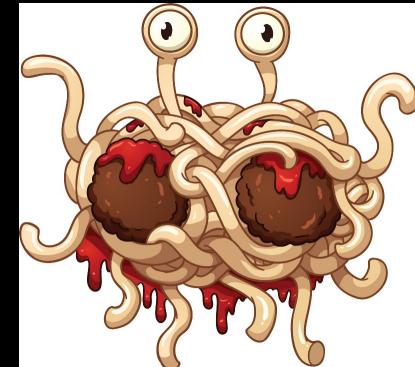
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Used in medical diagnosis, criminal cases/trials, history research, car mechanics, etc.	Used in science	Used in math and logic
Example: Crucifixion & Resurrection accounts	Example: Historical reliability of New Testament docs	Example: Ontological, Teleological, Moral, Design

# Intro to Apologetics

## SYLLOGISM

Syllogism Format	Syllogism Example
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# Intro to Apologetics

## Pascal's Wager

	GOD EXISTS	GOD DOES NOT EXIST
BELIEVE IN GOD	Infinite Gain (in Heaven)	Insignificant Loss
DISBELIEVE IN GOD	Infinite Loss (in Hell)	Insignificant Gain

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Ontological Argument

God is the greatest conceivable being

A being that exists in reality is greater than one that only exists in one's mind

A necessarily-existing being is greater than a merely possible being

Therefore God must exist

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Teleological Argument

Order and useful arrangement in a system imply intelligence, purpose, and design.

The universe is characterized by intricate design.

Therefore the universe has a Designer.

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## The Moral Argument

The *argument from morality* is an argument for the existence of God. Arguments from morality tend to be based on moral normativity or moral order.

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## The Moral Argument

If objective moral values exist, then God exists.

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Moral Argument

If objective moral values exist, then God exists.

Objective moral values exist.

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Moral Argument

If objective moral values exist, then God exists.

Objective moral values exist.

Therefore God exists.

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Moral Argument

If God does not exist, then objective moral values and duties do not exist.

Evil exists.

Therefore, objective moral values and duties do exist.

Therefore God exists.

# Intro to Apologetics

## The Kalam Cosmological Argument

The *Kalām cosmological argument* (KCA) is a modern formulation of the cosmological argument for the existence of God rooted in the Ilm al-Kalam heritage in medieval Islamic scholasticism.

An outspoken defender of the argument is William Lane Craig.



# Intro to Apologetics

## The Kalam Cosmological Argument

Whatever begins to exist has a cause

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Whatever begins to exist has a cause

The universe began to exist

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The cause of the universe is God

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## The Kalam Cosmological Argument

Whatever begins to exist has a cause

The universe began to exist

Therefore, the universe has a cause

The cause of the universe is God

*[Personal Creator of the universe who is beginningless, changeless, immaterial, timeless, spaceless and enormously powerful]*

# Intro to Apologetics

## Apologetics: Varieties

# Intro to Apologetics

## Varieties of Apologetics

Historical & Legal Evidentialism	Defense of Miracles	Prophetic Fulfillment
Biblical Apologetics	Philosophical Apologetics	Moral Apologetics
Scientific Apologetics	Creationist Apologetics	Experiential Apologetics

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# Intro to Apologetics

*“I think it would be very unwise spiritually to have a class that is devoted to nothing but apologetics over a long period of time. I think a person’s spiritual life would just dry up in that kind of situation. You need to be feeding people from the Scriptures and with Christian doctrine and not just exclusively apologetics.”*

[William Lane Craig, <http://www.reasonablefaith.org>]

# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Always Be Ready

# Intro to Apologetics

## Five common FAITH CHALLENGES and how you can answer them

THEY SAY: "Science has disproven God."

YOU ASK: "What would you say are some of the things that science can't tell us?"

### **Things to think about**

Science has limits. There are a whole range of questions it can't answer, from philosophy to math, politics to literature to, most profoundly, what it means to be human. Science is simply one tool for investigating reality. The problem is that to a man with a hammer, everything often looks like a nail.

### **Further reading**

John Lennox, *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* [Lion UK, 2009]

THEY SAY: "Religion poisons everything."

YOU ASK: "What about the chaos you can't pin on religion?"

### **Things to think about**

Human beings have an uncanny ability to take a whole range of things – science, politics, economics, sexuality, technology (and, yes, religion) – and use them for great evil. Rather than blame the things themselves, perhaps the problem lies within us.

### **Further reading**

Douglas Wilson, *God Is. How Christianity Explains Everything* [American Vision, 2008]

THEY SAY: "If there is a God, why is there evil?"

YOU ASK: "What do you mean by words like 'good' and 'evil'?"

### **Things to think about**

If there is no God, terms like 'good' and 'evil' really just collapse to personal preference. The atheist can say, "I don't like murder," but not "Murder is wrong." Instinctively, most of us recognize evil when we see it. And when we experience evil, what we want is not something said about evil, but something done. And that's what the cross is all about.

### **Further reading**

Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale, *Why Suffering? Finding Meaning and Comfort When Life Doesn't Make Sense* [FaithWords, 2014]

THEY SAY: "Christians are narrow-minded and judgmental!"

YOU ASK: "Tell me your story. What happened?"

### **Things to think about**

Behind many people's rejection of the gospel is often not an intellectual objection, but bad experiences with the Church or Christians. We need to take the time to listen, understand and then show a different side to Christianity. Behind every question is a questioner, and unless we remember that, we'll end up obsessed with winning arguments and lose the person in the process.

### **Further reading**

Ravi Zacharias, *Has Christianity Failed You?* [Zondervan, 2010]

THEY SAY: "You're only a Christian because your parents were!"

YOU ASK: "So what about an atheist whose parents were atheists?"

### **Things to think about**

Many objections to Christianity self-destruct when you turn them around and shoot them back at the questioner. If what we believe is determined purely by our culture or upbringing, then everybody (not just Christians) is in the same boat. Nobody can claim to believe for rational reasons. And, of course, it wouldn't explain conversion.

### **Further reading**

Abdu Murray, *Grand Central Question: Answering the Critical Concerns of the Major Worldviews* [IVP Books, 2014]

—ANDY BANNISTER

# Intro to Apologetics

Have the New Testament Documents been corrupted?

Is there any evidence that the resurrection of Jesus actually happened?

Has science disproved God?

Does the Bible condone slavery?

Is there any evidence outside of the Bible that Jesus actually existed?

# Intro to Apologetics

When Someone Challenges Your Faith...

Don't panic

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Clarify the claim

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Get a fix on the reasons

# Intro to Apologetics

When Someone Challenges Your Faith...

Don't panic

Clarify the claim

Get a fix on the reasons

Do an assessment

# Intro to Apologetics

*For though we live as human beings, we do not wage war according to human standards, for the weapons of our warfare are not human weapons, but are made powerful by God for tearing down strongholds. We tear down arguments and every arrogant obstacle that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to make it obey Christ.*

[2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NLT]

# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Logical Fallacies

# Intro to Apologetics

## strawman

Misrepresenting or exaggerating someone's argument to make it easier to attack.

## slippery slope

Asserting that if we allow A to happen, then Z will consequently happen too, therefore A should not happen.

## special pleading

Moving the goalposts or making up exceptions when a claim is shown to be false.

## the gambler's fallacy

Believing that 'runs' occur to statistically independent phenomena such as roulette wheel spins.

## black-or-white

Where two alternative states are presented as the only possibilities, when in fact more possibilities exist.

## false cause

Presuming that a real or perceived relationship between things means that one is the cause of the other.

## ad hominem

Attacking your opponent's character or personal traits instead of engaging with their argument.

## loaded question

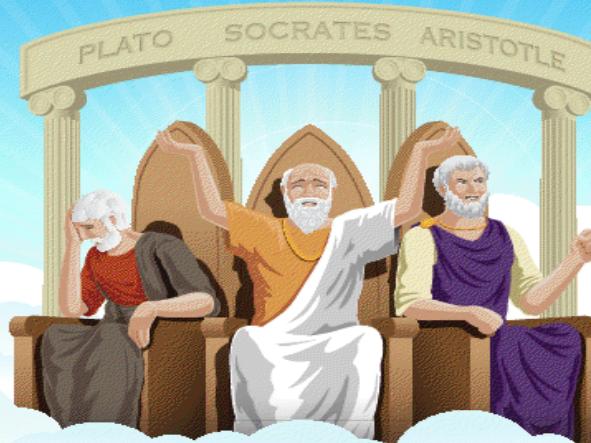
Asking a question that has an assumption built into it so that it can't be answered without appearing guilty.

## bandwagon

Appealing to popularity or the fact that many people do something as an attempted form of validation.

## begging the question

A circular argument in which the conclusion is included in the premise.



## appeal to emotion

Manipulating an emotional response in place of a valid or compelling argument.

## tu quoque

Avoiding having to engage with criticism by turning it back on the accuser - answering them with criticism.

## burden of proof

Saying that the burden of proof lies not with the person making the claim, but with someone else to disprove.

## no true scotsman

Making what could be called an appeal to purity as a way to dismiss relevant criticisms or flaws of an argument.

## the texas sharpshooter

Cherry-picking data clusters to suit an argument, or finding a pattern to fit a presumption.

## the fallacy fallacy

Presuming that because a claim has been poorly argued, or a fallacy has been made, that it is necessarily wrong.

## personal incredulity

Saying that because one finds something difficult to understand that it's therefore not true.

## ambiguity

Using double meanings or ambiguities of language to mislead or misrepresent the truth.

## genetic

Judging something good or bad on the basis of where it comes from, or from whom it comes.

## middle ground

Saying that a compromise, or middle point, between two extremes is the truth.

**thou shalt not commit logical fallacies**

# Intro to Apologetics



[REDACTED]

February 16 at 9:09am · 

The value of rational thought

An omnipotent God needing to create us  
To worship him / her / it

Is a God lacking in self-esteem  
And therefore deficit

Labi Siffre



Like



Comment



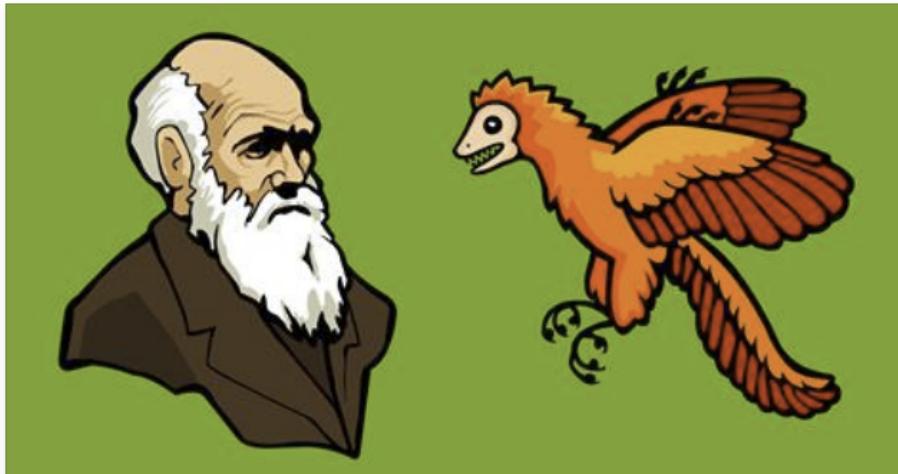
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February 12 at 11:26am · YouTube

Happy Darwins Day. Here's an explanation of how evolution works. And remember, in science, a theory IS a proven fact.

Watch more videos at [Stated Clearly](#)



## What is Evolution? - YouTube

shared a video

[YOUTUBE.COM](#)



Like



Comment



Share



2



**Darren Enns** One good point that this video makes is that 'evolution' tells us nothing about the 'origin of life' -- it only attempts to address the development after life has already begun 😊

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · February 20 at 2:41pm



True, science is not done yet though 😊



21 hours ago (edited)

The key to not following man made religions is education.

Once you're educated in religion, you understand its origins, horrors and its impossibilities.

You seem like you got that spark of wanting to know the truth, but fearful of what it may bring.

Here are some fact examples to help you on your way....

- 1) No one knows who wrote any of the bible.
- 2) There are no original manuscript of the bible. So we have no way of knowing what was originally written.
- 3) Scribes (those who copied the bible manuscripts when they began to deteriorate) made hundreds of thousands of mistakes when copying.
- 4) Scribes made up their own stories. John 8, the story of Jesus and the adulterer, was completely made up by a scribe and not by the author of the "John" manuscript. How many times have you heard the phrase "he who throws stones"? Totally made up.
- 5) Church officials and politicians assembled the bible, not a god. Man decided what should be in the bible, not a god. Other gospels existed as well, not included.
- 6) Science disproves any supernatural happenings int the bible.

Dont take my word for it, that what religious people do.

Look it up for yourself. Educate yourself with secular eyes and be free.

Peace.

# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Bonus Stuff

# Intro to Apologetics

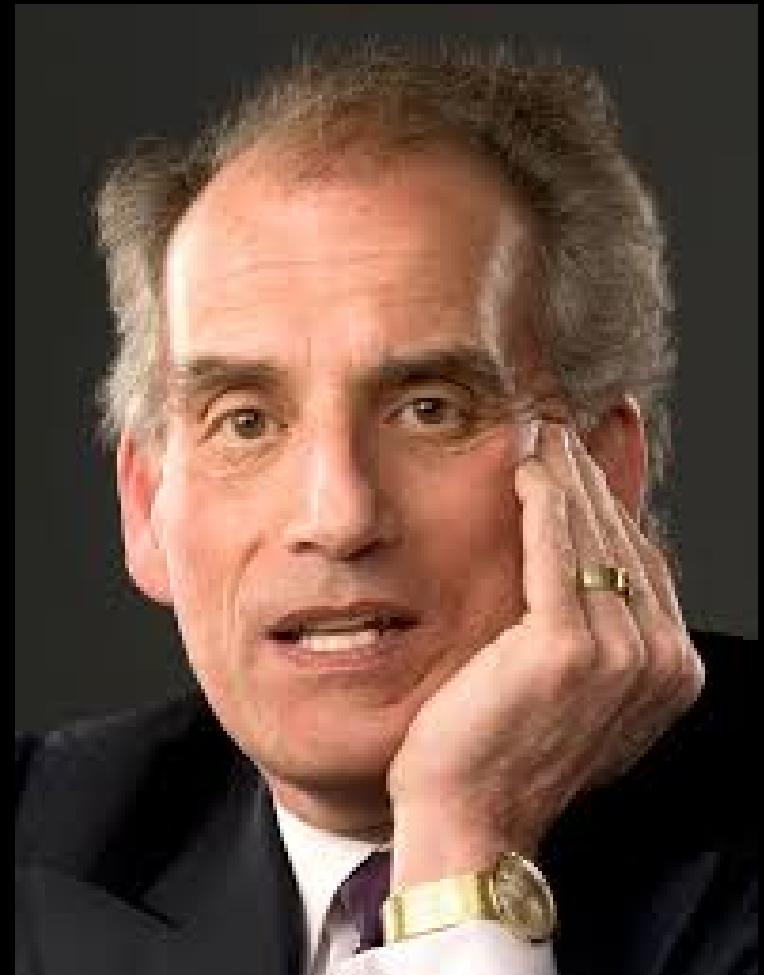
Apologetics: Strange Allies

# Intro to Apologetics

*“Has anyone provided a proof of God’s inexistence? Not even close. Does anything in the sciences or in their philosophy justify the claim that religious belief is irrational? Not even ballpark. Is scientific atheism a frivolous exercise in intellectual contempt? Dead on.”*

*David Berlinski*

*“The Devil’s Delusion”*



# Intro to Apologetics

*“The God Delusion makes me ashamed to be an atheist... Richard Dawkins in The God Delusion would fail any introductory philosophy or religion course. Proudly he criticizes that whereof he knows nothing. ”*

*Michael Ruse*



# Intro to Apologetics

Apologetics: Good Web Sites

# Intro to Apologetics

CARM: Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry



<https://www.carm.org/>

# Intro to Apologetics

Stand To Reason: Confidence for every Christian

- Clear thinking for every challenge
- Courage and grace for every encounter



# Intro to Apologetics

Reasonable Faith: To provide an articulate, intelligent voice for biblical Christianity in the public arena



# Intro to Apologetics

GotQuestions: providing biblical, applicable, and timely answers to spiritually related question

The screenshot shows the homepage of GotQuestions.org. At the top left is the logo "got Questions?org". The top navigation bar includes links for "What's New", "Search Our Site", "FAQ Archives", and "Question of the Week". Below the navigation is a green horizontal bar with links for "Top 20 Questions", "Top 20 Articles", and "International". The main content area features a photograph of a man in a suit looking thoughtful, with several question marks floating around his head. To the right of the photo, the text "463,800 Bible Questions Answered!" is displayed, followed by three questions: "Do you have a question about God, Jesus, the Bible, or theology?", "Do you need help understanding a Bible verse or passage?", and "Are there any spiritual issues in your life for which you need advice or counsel?". There is a search bar with a red "Search" button. Below the search bar is a section titled "The Network" featuring logos for "GO KIDZ", "4 1 2 TEENS", "SEEK FIND", "bl", "TR", and "BIBLE REF".

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/>

# Intro to Apologetics

The Poached Egg: Christian Worldview,  
Apologetics, Discipleship, Evangelism, and more!



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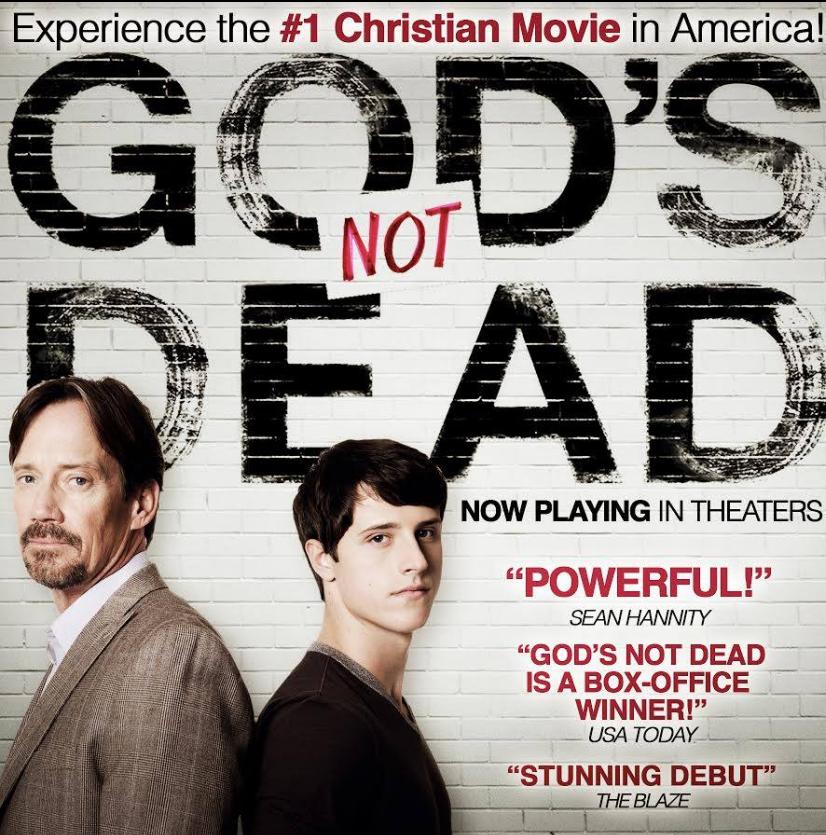
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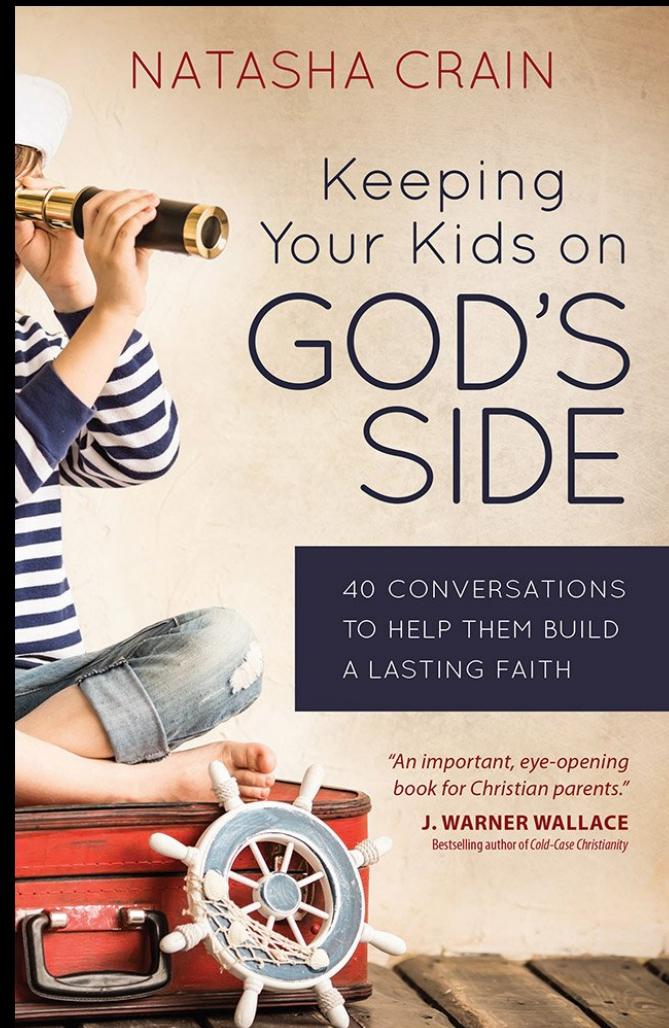
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<http://www.thepoachedegg.net/>

# Intro to Apologetics



# Intro to Apologetics



# Intro to Apologetics



# Intro to Apologetics

1. What key arguments are there for (and against) God's existence?	17. Is Christianity a less intelligent worldview than atheism? Why or why not?
3. Why would a good God allow evil to exist?	24. What are the four minimal facts of the resurrection that are “so strongly attested historically that they are granted by nearly every scholar who studies the subject, even the rather skeptical ones?”
4. Why would a good God allow suffering to exist?	25. What are the main theories non-believers have about the resurrection?
11. How can it be reasonable for Christians to claim knowledge of an objective truth?	26. Why do Christians believe a supernatural (bodily) resurrection explains the minimal facts better than all the other theories?
15. Do all religions ultimately point to the same God? Why or why not?	31. How can we know that the Bible we have today is a reliable record of the original writings?

# Intro to Apologetics

40. How do YECs determine that the earth is 6,000-10,000 years old?	51. What is evolution (from a purely scientific perspective)?
42. What are major methods scientists use to estimate the age of the earth, and what is their consensus on the estimate?	52. What are the key pieces of evidence for evolution?
45. What are the major reasons OECs reject the YEC interpretation of creation?	53. What are the key questions evolution has not answered?
47. What is Intelligent Design?	59. How can Christians believe miracles are possible, given what we know about science (e.g., the miracle of Jesus' resurrection)?
49. What are the major reasons Intelligent Design proponents reject evolution as a sufficient explanation for the existence of life?	60. What does it mean (biblically) to have faith, and how is that different than the popular definition of faith?

# Intro to Apologetics

## Part 1: Conversations About God

1. What evidence is there for God's existence?
2. How could a good God allow evil and suffering?
3. Why would God command the genocide of the Canaanites?
4. How can a loving God send people to hell?
5. How can God judge people who have never even heard about Jesus?
6. Why would God need people to worship Him?
7. Why is God so hidden?
8. Is faith in God the opposite of reason?

# Intro to Apologetics

## Part 2: Conversations About Truth and Worldviews

9. What is the difference between objective and subjective truth?
10. Do all religions point to the same truth?
11. How can Christians claim they know what is objectively true?
12. How can personal experience help determine what is true?
13. How can common sense help determine what is true?
14. If Christianity is true, why are there so many denominations?
15. Is Christianity responsible for millions of deaths in history?
16. Are Christians less intelligent than atheists?

# Intro to Apologetics

## Part 3: Conversations About Jesus

17. How do we know Jesus existed?
18. Did Jesus really claim to be God?
19. Did Jesus' followers really believe He was God?
20. Why did Jesus need to die on the cross for our sins?
21. What are the historical facts of the resurrection that nearly every scholar agrees on?
22. What are the major theories people use to explain those facts?
23. Why do Christians believe a supernatural resurrection best explains the facts?
24. How can Christians believe miracles are even possible?

# Intro to Apologetics

## Part 4: Conversations About the Bible

25. How were the books in the Bible selected?

26. Why were books left out of the Bible?

27. How do we know we can trust the Bible's authors?

28. How do we know the Bible we have today says what the authors originally wrote?

29. Does the Bible have errors and contradictions?

30. Does the Bible support slavery?

31. Does the Bible support rape?

32. Does the Bible support human sacrifice?

# Intro to Apologetics

## Part 5: Conversations About Science

33. Why do Christians have varying views on how and when God created the world?
34. What is young-Earth creationism?
35. How do mainstream scientists estimate the age of the Earth?
36. What is old-Earth creationism?
37. What is evolution?
38. What are the major pieces of evidence for evolution?
39. What are the major challenges to evolution?
40. What is intelligent design?

# Intro to Apologetics

You don't believe in Zeus, Thor and all the other gods. I just go one god more than you, and reject the Christian God.

Science has explained everything, and it doesn't include God.

Science is opposed to God.

You can't prove that there is a God.

Faith is believing without any evidence.

Faith is a delusion. I'd no more believe in God than I would in the Easter Bunny, Father Christmas or the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

Christianity claims to be true, but there loads of denominations and they all disagree with each other, so it must be false.

The Bible is immoral.

Surely you don't take the Bible literally?

What is the evidence for God?

# Intro to Apologetics

*For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes...*

*[Romans 1:16a NLT]*