

## Introduction to Apologetics

*Apologetics is the branch of Christianity that deals with the defense and establishment of the Christian faith.*

In order to defend your faith, you must . . . (1 Peter 3:14-16)

- Be saved. (vs. 15)
- Be bold (vs. 14)
- “Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts” (vs. 15)
- Be ready (vs. 15)
- Have an attitude of gentleness to men and reverence to God (vs. 15)
- “Keep a good conscience” (vs. 16)

### Different Approaches to Apologetics

<i>Classical</i> : Reason Undergirds Faith	<i>Evidential</i> : Evidence Undergirds Faith	<i>Presuppositional</i> : Faith Undergirds Reason
Defend the Christian faith by appealing to the unbeliever’s capacity to reason using logical argument (man) as the final authority.	Defend the Christian faith by appealing to the unbeliever’s capacity to reason using historical and scientific evidence (man) as the final authority.	Defend the Christian faith by appealing to what the unbeliever already knows concerning the Christian faith using Scripture (God) as the final authority.
Teleological, Cosmological, Ontological arguments, etc.	Resurrection argument, creation arguments, fulfilled prophecy, etc.	Transcendental Argument
Progressively build a case for the Bible starting with blank theism and adding components.	Prove a bare-bones or “mere” Christianity by proving that certain things in the Bible are accurate based on modern historical methods.	Prove the biblical Christian worldview as a “package deal” that cannot be rejected without appealing to logical absurdity.
Plato, Thomas Aquinas, R.C. Sproul, William Lane Craig	B. B. Warfield, John Warwick Montgomery, Clark Pinnock, Gary Habermas	The Apostle Paul, Augustine, Calvin, Cornelius Van Til, Greg Bahnsen

Presuppositionalism is the biblical apologetic used by Paul at Mar’s Hill. It is the only way to reason with a nonbeliever in such a way that he is not made autonomous. All “evidential” and “Classical” arguments must be framed in a presuppositional way in order to “answer a fool according to his folly.”

## Evidential Argument

1. Senses/Mind are Reliable
2. We See Design in Universe
3. Design Requires Designer
4. God Is Designer

## Presuppositional Argument

1. God Exists
2. Therefore, Senses are Reliable
3. We See Design in Universe
4. Design Requires Designer
5. God is Designer



### Worldview

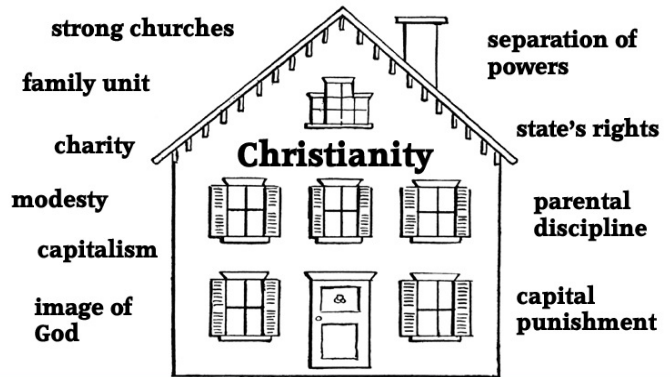
There are three philosophical fields of study:  
*Epistemology*: How do we know? *Metaphysics*: What can be known? *Ethics* (or “Value”) Theory: What types of things are good or bad?

The answers to these three components of philosophy depend upon each other. A system that attempts to answer all three questions in a consistent way is called a “worldview.”

**Foundation = Presuppositions**  
**Epistemology**  
**Metaphysics**  
**Value Theory**



**Sense Perception**  
**Material World**  
**Equality of Outcome**



**Revelation from God**  
**Natural and Supernatural**  
**Obeing Christ**

## Ultimate Authority

*An individual's ultimate or "final" authority can be defined as his ultimate standard by which all is measured "being last in a series, process, or progression." It is an independent standard that relies on no other source for authentication. All worldviews, and thus all people, have a final authority, though most are not conscious of this fact. Our duty as the apologist is to make people epistemologically self-aware. In other words, we attempt to shed light on their ultimate faith commitment which, if humans are to be rational, must be the Word of God.*

### The Nonbeliever's Ultimate Authority

### The Believer's Ultimate Authority

Is Not God's Word	1 Cor. 2:14, Eph 4:17-18	Is God Himself	Col 2:2c, Matt 28:18, 2 Cor 10:5, Prov 1:7, Prov 9:10
Is in Opposition to What He Knows Is the Ultimate Authority	Rom 1:19-20, Matt 7:26-27	Is Understood Through God's Word	Matt 4:4, John 17:17, Is 8:20, 2 Tim 3:16, Ps 19:7b
Resides in Creation Itself	Col. 2:8, Rom 1:25	Is Self-Authenticating	Ex 3:14, John 5:26, 1 John 4:8; El Shaddai lit. means "all-sufficient"
Results in Foolishness	1 Cor 1:20, Prov 1:22, 12:15, 1 Tim 6:20, Luke 16:31		

### Defending an Ultimate Authority

Every worldview ultimately terminates in a circular argument because of the nature of a final (or ultimate) authority. If the question "why?" is constantly asked we eventually hit bedrock so to speak—the ultimate reason for believing all facts from which all predication is derived. For the rationalist, reason is the final authority, therefore every time reason is given as a reason for Reason we are listening to a circular argument. It is just as circular for the rationalist to say that Reason is his authority as it is for the Muslim to say that the Koran is his.



The difference between the Christian worldview and all others is that in the Christian conception of reality there is an escape hatch from the viscous circle. Only the invariable, absolute, and unchanging attributes of the Triune God of Scripture are able to provide the proper starting assumptions one must have in order to reason correctly. To put it to a melody, “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so,” *and without Him you can’t prove anything.*

**Problems with using reason as an ultimate authority**

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| 1. Reason is inadequate in and of itself to account for the preconditions of intelligibility. Objective morality, sense perception, the uniformity of nature, the existence of the external world, etc.              |
| 2. Another problem with using reason as a final authority is that there are different kinds of reasoning. Ideas concerning how we ought to reason are just as subjective as ideas concerning the nature of morality. |

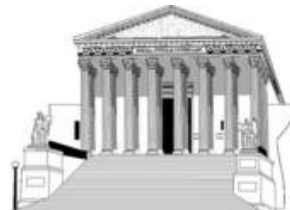
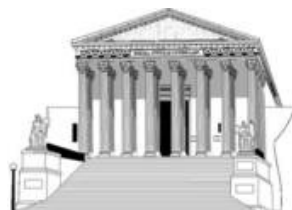
**The Christian Escape Hatch**

Rationalist	Christian
Without reason, existence is absurd	Without God’s Word, existence would be absurd
Existence is not absurd	Existence is not absurd
Therefore, reason exists	Therefore, God’s Word is true
How do you know existence is not absurd?	
I don’t know	Existence is not absurd because God has established a rational order based on His mind.

When engaging with someone from an anti-Christian viewpoint we must put on their glasses by entering their worldview (an internal critique). When we enter their worldview we will find it to be a world of inconsistencies, contradictions, arbitrariness, and the inability to provide the preconditions for intelligibility. There is only one final authority that gives meaning to life—the invariable, absolute, and unchanging triune God of scripture.

*Which is a “True” Court of Justice?*

*Contradictory Laws  
Changing Laws  
Variable Laws  
Unappointed Judge*



*Absolute Laws  
Unchanging Laws  
Invariable Laws  
Rightful Judge*