

Christian Apologetics

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Review:

- Defined Apologetics in context of 1 Peter 3:15-16 “always be 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...”
- We looked at the reasons for defending our faith
 - Scriptural mandate
 - Building up one another in the faith
 - The world needs it
- The results of our efforts are up to God, so even if we are new to defending the faith, God can use our efforts for His glory.

Objectives for Today:

- To define truth and its importance to Christianity
- To understand relativism, its implications and how to refute it

Introduction

- Plane trip with a relativist
- Age old questions “What is truth?” “Is it knowable?”
- Today’s situation

Truth's Relevance to Christian Apologetics

- Christianity is based on claims of truth
- If truth is relative, Christianity is false
- Non-Christians will deflect all your claims as being only true for you and not for them

What is Truth?

- That which corresponds to reality. (Telling it like it is)
- Something is true when it is in accordance with or not contrary to fact.

Nature of Truth

- Absolute
- Relative

Absolute Truth

- Truth is knowable through the use of logic
- Moral absolutism

Relative Truth

- Truth is not knowable for certain
- Moral relativism

Implications of moral relativism

- Everything is subjective – Mapplethorpe and Serrano



Implications of moral relativism

- Everyone defines their own morality
 - Abortion
 - Euthanasia
 - Homosexual Marriage



Implications of moral relativism

- Tolerance is King (you must affirm my beliefs)



Flaws of Relativism

- Relativists can't accuse others of wrongdoing
- Relativists can't complain about the problem of evil
- Relativists can't place blame or accept praise
- Relativists can't make charges of unfairness or injustice
- Relativists can't hold meaningful moral discussions
- Relativists can't promote the obligation of tolerance

Refuting Relativism

- Road Runner Tactic



Refuting Relativism

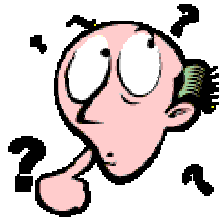
- Show contradictions of relativism
- Push their hot button
- Show the flaws of relativism

Conclusion

- Truth is absolute
- Relativism is self-refuting
- Christianity is based upon truth
- Jesus is the truth. “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

For next week...

God:



Can we prove
He exists?