

Norton Apostolic Christian Church

Living, Growing, Sharing Jesus Christ

2012 Apologetics Course Outline

I. Introduction

- A. What is and why have Apologetics? The study of rational evidences for Christianity.
- B. What difference does it make if God exists? Considers the implications of life without God.

II. Plowing the Dirt

- A. Survey of Worldviews
 1. Relativism: The belief that the individual or society decides what is true/moral.
 2. Atheism: The belief that God does not exist or there is no God.
 3. Agnosticism: The belief that knowledge of God is unknowable.
 4. Deism: God made all creation and stopped intervening subsequent to creating.
 5. Pantheism: The belief that all is God and God is all.
 6. Panentheism: The belief that God is to the world what the soul is to the body.
 7. Theism: The belief in a personal, creator/ sustainer of the universe who is involved in our lives as well as creation.
- B. Miracles: A necessary characteristic of the theistic worldview.
- C. Problem of Evil: Considered to be the main objection to the theistic worldview.
 1. Part 1
 2. Part 2

III. Planting the Seed

- A. Leibnizian Cosmological Argument: This argument intends to show that God exists as a necessary being, in other words, He cannot not exist.
- B. Kalam Cosmological Argument: This argument intends to show that the beginning of the universe (space and time) cries out to a creator that transcends space and time.
- C. Teleological (Design) Argument: This argument shows that the universe was created intentionally by God in a way fitting for life to exist as opposed to by chance or law.
- D. Axiological (Moral) Argument: This argument shows that in the absence of God, objective morals and values do not exist. In other words, a moral law exists only if a transcendent moral law giver exists.
- E. Ontological Argument: This argument attempts to show that if the existence of a necessary being is possible then it follows that one exists.
- F. Evidences for the Resurrection: Reasons why holding that Christ rose from the dead is a rational position to take.

IV. Maintaining the Growth

- A. Divine Revelation: Discusses ways in which God has revealed Himself to us.
 - 1. General (Creation)
 - 2. Special (Bible)
 - a) Textual Criticism
 - b) Inspiration
 - c) Translations
 - d) Reliability

- B. Divine Attributes: Discusses what we know about God based on His revelation to us.
 - 1. Aseity: God is a necessary being. (He cannot not exist)
 - 2. Eternity: God's relationship to time.
 - 3. Omnipresence: God is fully present everywhere in space but also transcends it.
 - 4. Immutability: God does not change according to His nature.
 - 5. Incorporeality: God is immaterial or nonphysical.
 - 6. Omniscience: God is all knowing according to His nature.
 - 7. Omnipotence: God is all powerful according to His nature.
 - 8. Holiness: God is perfect and worthy of worship.
 - 9. Omnibenevolence: God is all loving and good.

- C. Christian Doctrines: Beliefs that are unique to the Christian worldview.
 - 1. Trinity
 - 2. Christ
 - 3. Man
 - 4. Salvation
 - 5. The Church
 - 6. Creation
 - 7. Last Things