



Christian Apologetics

Session 1: Introduction to Apologetics

Why is Apologetics Important?

What is Apologetics?

Greek Word Meaning

Derives from the Greek word **apologia** which means to **refute** an **accusation**, or to **defend** a **belief**.



What is Apologetics?

Classical Definition

(Among Scholars)

To give a **reply** or **defense** to questions or accusations raised about the veracity and reliability of the Christian faith and doctrine using **reasoned argumentation**.



Why is Apologetics Important?

Big Idea

The world will **challenge** our faith in God
and **cause** us to doubt God's Word.

In response, we must **confirm WHAT** we believe
and **WHY** we believe it.



Why is Apologetics Important?

Satan's Lies

He (Satan) has always **hated the truth**,
because there is **no truth** in him.
When he lies, it is consistent with his character;
for **he is a liar** and the **father of lies**.

John 8:44 (NLT)



Why is Apologetics Important?

Secular Worldviews

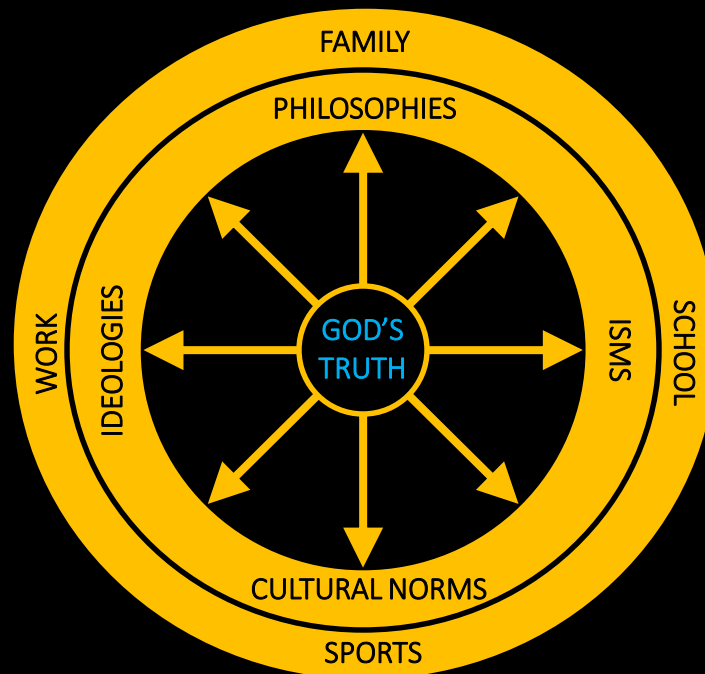
They traded the **truth** about God for a **lie**.
So they worshiped and served the **things**
God created instead of the **Creator**
himself.

Romans 1:25 (NLT)



Why is Apologetics Important?

Secular Worldviews



Why is Apologetics Important?

World of Skeptics

Often do not **think critically**
about life's most **important issues**.

Often settle for **simple/reasonable answers**
from **unreliable sources**.



Why is Apologetics Important?

Biblical Imperative

“We will no longer be **immature** like children. We won’t be **tossed** and **blown about** by every wind of new teaching. We will **not be influenced** when people try to trick us **with lies** so clever they sound like the truth”

Ephesians 4:14(NLT)



Why is Apologetics Important?

Biblical Imperative

“Always be prepared to **give an answer** to everyone who asks you to **give the reason** for the hope that you have.”

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)



Why is Apologetics Important?

Blind Man

The Pharisees asked the blind man, “What’s your opinion about this man who healed you?”

The man replied, “I think he must be a prophet.”
“I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!”

If this man were not from God,
he couldn’t have done it.”

John 9 (NLT)



What is Apologetics?

Our Working Definition

To provide a **reasoned answer** for **what** we believe to be true about God, and **why** we believe it based on both **knowledge** and **experience**.



What is Apologetics?

Apologetics is ...

An **inward response** to challenges and doubts

An **outward response** to questions and
accusations



Introduction to Mainstream Apologetics

Compilation of Apologetics materials from a
variety of sources

Contains 200 articles are published on
five key Apologetics topics

Chapters are organized into
evidence, claims, and arguments

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Introduction to Mainstream Apologetics

Table of Contents

Table of Contents provides a structured outline of all key Apologetics topics organized by [Arguments](#), [Claims](#) and [Evidence](#).

Existence of God

Creation of the Universe had a Transcendent First Cause

First we establish that the universe had a beginning and was created by a *transcendent first-cause* - God. We observe that the process of creation, based on cosmological findings over the last 100 years, is consistent with the biblical record in Genesis. This is evidenced by the Big-Bang event where space, time and matter came into existence simultaneously.

Creation of the Universe had a Transcendent First Cause

Universe Had a Beginning

Second Law of Thermodynamics

Einstein's General Theory of Relativity

Friedman-LeMaitre Theory - Big Bang Model

Hubble's Law - Red Shift Distance Law

Penzias-Wilson Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation

Great Galaxy Seeds

Borde-Guth-Vilenkin Theorem

Navigation Modes

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Universe Had a Beginning

Claim ID: COS-IS01

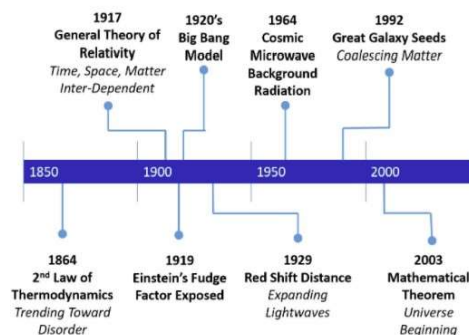
Claim: Universe Had a Beginning

Summary: The claim that the universe had a beginning is founded on credible, empirical evidence. Due to the overwhelming amount of evidence, many consider this claim the final word in cosmology [REF-PUR01].

Description: The claim that the universe had a beginning is founded on credible, empirical evidence from a largely secular scientific community. This evidence covers a broad range of cosmological areas including cosmic background radiation, energy dispersion and conservation, and residual light waves.

Summary of Key Evidence

The discoveries of the late 19th and 20th centuries demonstrate that the universe has a singularity beginning. These discoveries are depicted in the following timeline.



Cosmological Timeline of Key Discoveries

The following is a summary of the key evidence.

- Singularity Beginning** - The universe had a singularity beginning when time, space, and matter came into existence simultaneously. This fact is evidenced by the discovery of cosmic microwave background radiation by Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson [COS-EV10]. This singularity beginning is further

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Introduction to Mainstream Apologetics

Revelation of God

Revelation of God is Visible, Inspired, Reliable and Trustworthy

Once we have established that God had a purpose for His creation, we establish that God's revelation of Himself is visible, trustworthy and inspired. We observe that God revealed Himself through nature, the revealed Word (the Bible) and ultimately the person of Jesus. This is evidenced by mankind's response to the creation, the moral conscience and the consistency of the biblical narrative and prophetic proclamations/fulfillments over the span of 1,500 years.

Chapter 3: Revelation of God

Divinity of Jesus

Chapter 3: Revelation of God

- 3.4.2 Autograph Reconstruction from 24,000+ Manuscripts
- 3.4.3 Reliable Transmission of the New Testament
- 3.5 Books of the Bible Carefully Authenticated by Church Councils
 - 3.5.1 39 Old Testament Books Pass Tests of Canonicity
 - 3.5.2 27 New Testament Books Pass Tests of Canonicity
 - 3.5.3 Books of the Bible Carefully Authenticated by Church Councils
- 3.6 God Reveals Truth
 - 3.6.1 Declarations of God's Truth
 - 3.6.2 Philosophical Basis for God's Truth
 - 3.6.3 God Reveals Truth
- 3.7 Revelation of God is Visible, Inspired, Reliable, and Trustworthy

3 Conclusion: Revelation of God is Visible, Inspired, Reliable, and Trustworthy (PHY-DS04)

God's revelation of himself is abundant and widely visible. The general nature of *God the Creator* and the consequences of man's sin are evidenced by the created order. The specific nature of *God the Redeemer* is evidenced by the Bible, the written Word of God. These types of revelation come to us progressively through the ages. God's ultimate revelation of truth is in the person of Jesus Christ.

Navigation Modes

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Introduction to Mainstream Apologetics

The screenshot displays the website's layout with four red arrows indicating a navigation path: from the top header to the navigation menu, then to the Table of Contents, then to a specific article, and finally to a resource popup.

Mainstream Apologetics Navigation Modes

- Welcome to Mainstream Apologetics
- The aim of the Mainstream Apologetics project is to make apologetics resources readily available to a wide audience, including both Christians and non-Christians.
- Mainstream Apologetics provides apologetics resources from credible sources.
- Apologetics information, arguments, claims and evidence.
- This organization is committed to hearing where evidence is first, followed by claims, and then by closing arguments.
- Evidences:** Evidences represent observations and analyses resulting from empirical methods. They are based on research in cosmology, physics, microbiology, mathematics, psychology, and other disciplines. Evidences are the raw materials upon which noteworthy

Navigation Modes

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Table of Contents

- Existence of God
- Purpose of God
- Imprint of God
- Revelation of God
- Divinity of Jesus
- Resurrection of Jesus

Jesus was Raised from the Dead

Once we've established that Jesus is Divine, we establish that Jesus *conquered death* by rising from the dead.

- Jesus was Raised from the Dead
- Jesus is Divine
- Jesus Died by Crucifixion
 - Jesus' Crucifixion According to Cornelius Tacitus
 - Jesus' Crucifixion According to...

Jesus' Injuries Certainly Led to His Death

Evidence ID: HIS-EV65

Evidence: Jesus' Injuries Certainly Led to His Death

Summary: The consensus among forensic pathologists is that Jesus suffered a violent and certain death. Jesus suffered multiple critical injuries during his trial and crucifixion. Most notable were severe hemorrhaging, hypovolemic shock, asphyxia and ultimately cardiac arrest. To assume that Jesus could *walk away* from the scourging and crucifixion would be contrary to the findings of modern forensic pathology.

Description: Many theories abound regarding the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Perhaps the most popular is the *swoon theory* from the eighteenth century [REF-SW001]. According to this theory, Jesus lost consciousness (swooned) while on the cross due to extreme exhaustion and then was resuscitated after a 3-day

Jesus' Injuries Certainly Led to His Death

Evidence ID: REF-SW001

Resource: Swoon Hypothesis

Authors: Wikipedia

Publisher: Wikipedia

URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swoon_hypothesis

critical injuries during his trial and crucifixion. Most notable were severe hemorrhaging, hypovolemic shock, asphyxia and ultimately cardiac arrest. To assume that Jesus could *walk away* from the scourging and crucifixion would be contrary to the findings of modern forensic pathology.

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Reflection

Q1: How is your **faith challenged** living in the world?

Q2: What **doubts** do you have about the **truth claims** of Christianity?

Q3: Why is important to **experience** truth?

Q4: What was your biggest **takeaway** from this teaching?

