



ARE YOU READY?



*Faith Bible College
April 12-13, 2013*



LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR MIND



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Lecture 1
The Need for Apologetics in a
World of Confusion

**LOVE THE LORD WITH
ALL YOUR MIND**

**We must have passion... and
knowledge**

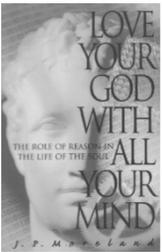
- ♦ "We live in what may be the most anti-intellectual period in the history of Western civilization.... We must have passion – indeed hearts on fire for the things of God. But that passion must resist with intensity the anti-intellectual spirit of the world."
- ♦ R.C. Sproul

**The Christian and the Well
Formed Mind**

- ♦ "Faith and a disciplined mental life were not natural enemies then. A well-formed mind held a place of honor. And it was believed that the Christian mind could be the best mind."

J.P. Moreland, *Love Your God With All Your Mind*, 15

Love Your God with All Your Mind
J.P. Moreland



The loss of the Christian mind in American Christianity

1. The emergence of anti-intellectualism
2. Evangelical withdrawal began
 1. Philosophical ideas from Europe
 2. German higher criticism
3. Darwinian Evolution

The loss of the Christian mind in American Christianity

- ◆ "This withdrawal from the broader, intellectual culture and public discourse contributed to the isolation of the church, the marginalization of Christian ideas from the public arena, and the shallowness and trivialization of Christian living, thought, and activism. In short, the culture became saltless." (24)

Anti-intellectualism's Impact on the Church

1. A misunderstanding of faith's relationship to reason.
2. The separation of the secular and the sacred.
3. Weakened world missions.
4. Anti-intellectualism has spawned an irrelevant gospel.

Ten Steps to Destruction

- ◆ Kerby Anderson, of Probe Ministries, believes that the only hope for our nation is to turn around, for "apart from revival and reformation, this nation is destined to decline."
- ◆ He goes on to outline ten stages that civilizations go through in their journey from bondage back to bondage:

Ten Steps to Destruction

- ◆ The first stage moves from bondage to spiritual faith.
- ◆ The second from spiritual faith to great courage.
- ◆ The third stage moves from great courage to liberty.
- ◆ The fourth stage moves from liberty to abundance.
- ◆ The fifth stage moves from abundance to selfishness.

Anderson, Kerby. *The Decline of a Nation*. Probe Ministries, 1991, 1-2.

Ten Steps to Destruction

- ◆ The sixth stage moves from selfishness to complacency.
- ◆ The seventh stage moves from complacency to apathy.
- ◆ The eighth stage moves from apathy to moral decay.
- ◆ The ninth stage moves from moral decay to dependence.
- ◆ And the tenth and last stage moves from dependence to bondage.

Anderson, Kerby. *The Decline of a Nation*. Probe Ministries, 1991, 1-2.

The Fate of our Nation

- ♦ From my observation of our nation, I would have to conclude that we are in the eighth step moving very quickly to the next step of dependency (on the government). Bondage is not far behind. Kerby Anderson then points out that this is the fate of every nation unless revival and reformation reverses the cycle. The book of Judges outlines the cycle that the Israelites went through as they turned away from God, and they are the same stages that America has gone through. Our fate will be captivity and dispersion as well unless we redirect our energy back to a renewed relationship with God.

The Fate of our Nation

- ♦ Kerby Anderson also points out that the decline and fall of a nation usually comes from within.
- ♦ “Even though some may have fallen to barbarians, their demise ultimately came because of moral and spiritual weakness which manifested itself as military weakness.” (5)

Mathew 22:37

- ♦ “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind”
- ♦ We need to have passion, power and reasoned purpose.

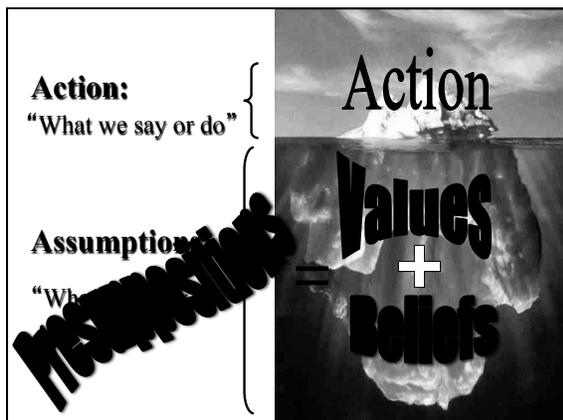
2 Timothy 4:3,4

- ♦ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Presuppositions

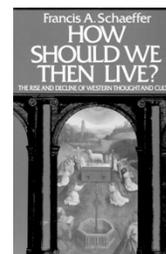
- ♦ We need to recognize and understand the presuppositions behind the worldviews.





Francis Schaeffer

- ♦ Presuppositions:
How Should We Then Live?, p. 19.
- ♦ "What they are in their thought world determines how they act."



Thoughts determine actions

- ♦ "There is a flow to history and culture. This flow is rooted and has its wellspring in the thoughts of people. People are unique in the inner life of the mind – what they are in their thought world determines how they act. This is true of their value systems and it is true of their creativity. It is true of their corporate actions, such as political decisions, and it is true of their personal lives. The results of their thought world flow through their fingers or from their tongues into the external world. This is true of Michelangelo's chisel, and it is true of a dictator's sword." (19)

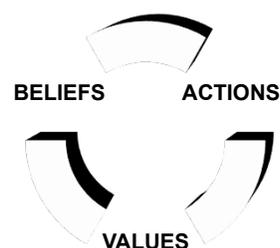
Presuppositions

- ♦ "People have presuppositions, and they will live more consistently on the basis of these presuppositions than even they themselves may realize. By presuppositions we mean the basic way an individual looks at life, his basic world view, the grid through which he sees the world. Presuppositions rest upon that which a person considers to be the truth of what exists. People's presuppositions lay a grid for all they bring forth into the external world. Their presuppositions also provide the basis for their values and therefore the basis for their decisions." (19)



Why Beliefs Matter

- ♦ Our actions come from our beliefs
- ♦ Our beliefs shape our values
- ♦ Our values cause us to exhibit specific attitudes and behaviors



Ideas have Consequences

- ◆ Bad ideas have bad consequences!

Schaeffer and Colson

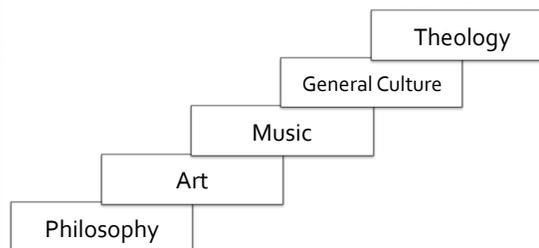
- ◆ *How Should We Then Live?*, p. 19
- ◆ *How Now Should We Live?*, p. xi

As a man thinks...

- ◆ "As a man thinks, so is he,' is really most profound. An individual is not just the product of the forces around him. He has a mind, an inner world. Then, having thought, a person can bring forth actions into the external world and thus influence it. People are apt to look at the outer theater of action, forgetting the actor who "lives in the mind" and who therefore is the true actor in the external world. The inner thought world determines the outward action."

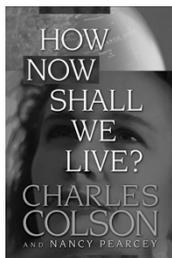
Francis Schaeffer, *How Should We then Live*, 19.

Development of a Paradigm Shift



How Now Shall We Live?

- ◆ Why are cultural trends shifting?
- ◆ Where did I come from?
- ◆ Why am I here?
- ◆ Where am I going?
- ◆ Does life have any meaning and purpose?



How Now Shall We Live, xi.

A Discouraging Statistic

- ◆ 70% of youth stop attending church when they graduate from High School.
- ◆ Nearly a decade later, about half return to church.



What you need to know to help youth stand strong in the face of today's culture

Young People Who Lack a biblical belief system are

- ♦ 225 % more likely to be angry with life
- ♦ 216% more likely to be resentful
- ♦ 210 % more likely to lack purpose in life
- ♦ 200 % more likely to be disappointed in life

"The Churched Youth Study" (Dallas: Josh McDowell Ministry, 1994), 69.

Those who don't possess a biblical belief system are

- ♦ 36% more likely to lie to a friend
- ♦ 48% more likely to cheat on an exam
- ♦ 200% more likely to steal
- ♦ 200% more likely to physically hurt someone
- ♦ 300% more likely to use illegal drugs
- ♦ 600% more likely to attempt suicide

"The Churched Youth Study" (Dallas: Josh McDowell Ministry, 1994), 65.

Three Areas of Distorted Beliefs

1. Distorted beliefs about God
2. Distorted beliefs about Truth
3. Distorted beliefs about Reality

Distorted beliefs about God

- ♦ 80% believe that God created the universe
- ♦ 84% believe that God is personally involved in people's lives
- ♦ YET
- ♦ 63% believe that Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, Jews, and all other people pray to the same god, even though they use different names for their god

Barna Research Group, "Third Millennium Teens" (Ventura, CA: The Barna Research Group, Ltd., 1999), 48.

Distorted beliefs about Jesus

- ♦ 87% believe Jesus was a real person who came to earth, and 78% believe that he was born to a virgin
- ♦ YET
- ♦ Nearly half (46%) believe he committed sins, and
- ♦ over 51% say he died but **did not** rise from the dead

Barna Research Group, "Third Millennium Teens" (Ventura, CA: The Barna Research Group, Ltd., 1999), 48.

Distorted beliefs about Salvation

- ♦ 48% believe that it does not matter what religious faith you associate with because they all believe the same principles and truth
- ♦ 58% believe that all religious faiths teach equally valid truth
- ♦ 65% believe that there is no way to tell which religion is true

Barna Research Group, "Third Millennium Teens" (Ventura, CA: The Barna Research Group, Ltd., 1999), 51.

Distorted beliefs about Truth

- 70% say there is no moral truth
- 81% claim that all truth is relative to the individual and his/her circumstance

Barna Research Group, "Third Millennium Teens" (Ventura, CA: The Barna Research Group, Ltd., 1999), 43.

Distorted beliefs about Reality

- ◆ 72% believe that you can tell if something is morally/ethically right for you by whether or not it works in your life
- ◆ "If it works, it's right for you"
- ◆ Thus, contradictory positions can be maintained

Barna Research Group, "Third Millennium Teens" (Ventura, CA: The Barna Research Group, Ltd., 1999), 44.

Distorted beliefs about Truth come from Postmodernism ☆

- ◆ Truth does not exist in any objective sense
- ◆ Truth – whether in science, education, or religion – is created by a specific culture or community and is "true" only in and for that culture
- ◆ Individual persons are the product of their cultures (African-American, Western, urban, rural, etc)
- ◆ All thinking is a "social construct," i.e., all truth is arbitrary: "The winners determine what goes in the history books"
- ◆ Any system that claims to have a corner on the truth is false

Jim Leffel, "Our New Challenge: postmodernism," in the Death of Truth, ed. Dennis McCallum (Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1996), 35.

Proverbs 14:12; 16:25

"THERE IS A WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT TO A MAN, BUT IN THE END IT BRINGS ONLY DEATH"

Reasons for Apologetics

- ◆ Reasons for apologetics
 - To unbelievers: to lead up to faith
 - To believers: to build up faith and aid love
 - To engage in spiritual warfare
- ◆ "...the warfare is against unbelief, not unbelievers, just as insulin is against diabetes, not diabetics. The goal of apologetics is not victory but truth." (22)
- ◆ "The best way to conquer your enemy is to make him your friend." (Abraham Lincoln)

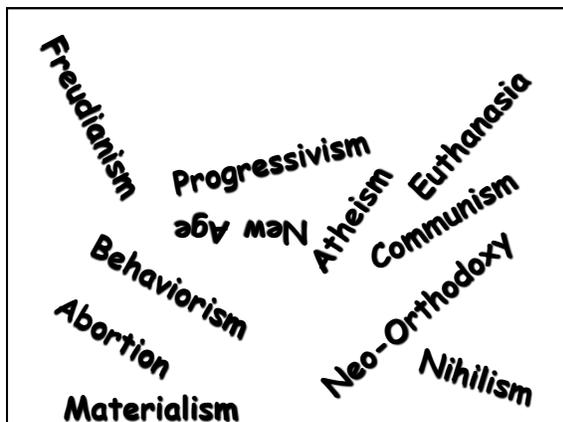
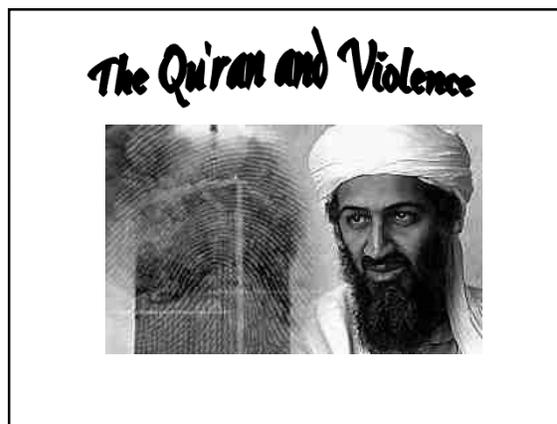
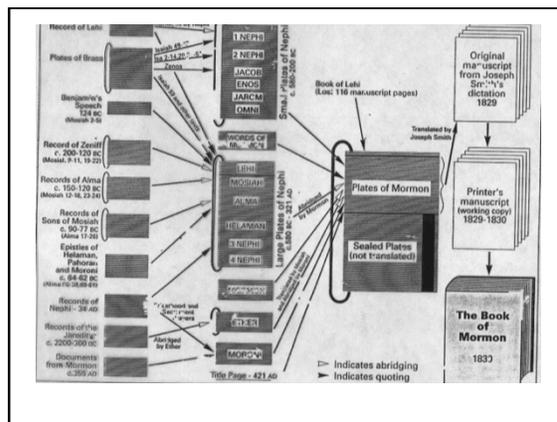


The evidence for Evolution is overwhelming.

By DAVID QUAMMEN
Photographs by ROBERT CLARK

Charles Darwin's grand theory, evolution by natural selection, links diverse biological facts into a coherent picture.

Evolution by natural selection, the central concept of the life's work of Charles Darwin, is a theory. It's a theory about the origin of adaptation, complexity, and diversity among Earth's living creatures. If you are skeptical by nature, unfamiliar with the terminology of science, and unused



2 Timothy 2:15

- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

What is a Worldview?

What is a Worldview?

Basic presuppositions
Filter by which we determine everything (actions, values, etc)
"the tape that is playing in your head" (Weltanschauung)
Idea concerning people, culture and the world
How you perceive and interact with your world
The "tool box" by which they interpret the world

SEVEN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS

James Sire

- ① What is prime reality—the really real?
- ② What is the nature of external reality?
- ③ What is a human being?
- ④ What happens to a person at death?

SEVEN WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS

- ⑤ Why is it possible to know anything at all?
- ⑥ How do we know what is right and wrong?
- ⑦ What is the meaning of history?

Worldview's Relationship to Culture

- Worldview describes primarily the core ideas, beliefs & values of a culture. The foundation of every worldview is its conception of the origins, sources of power & destiny of the universe.
- 4 key components of Worldview

Components of Worldview

- **Metaphysics:** (beliefs): The structure of reality. What is real, what is the nature of the universe?
 - **Ontology:** (Beliefs): The study of the essence of being: Often the core of worldview. What is being, both divine being and human being?
 - **Epistemology:** (Ideas): What can be known and how can it be known? Evaluating and ordering perception.
 - **Axiology:** (Values): What is right/wrong. What is desirable? Ethics.
- What is the foundation of these components of Worldview?

Myths of Origin, Power & Destiny Genesis / Evolution



Theism



Humanism

Myths of Origin, Power & Destiny ☆ Genesis / Evolution

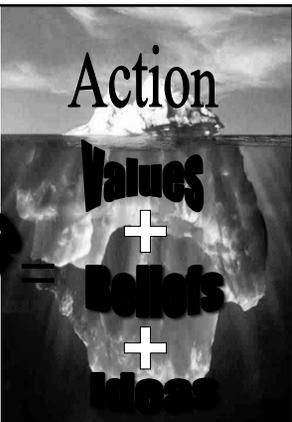



Ideas	Beliefs	Values
Epistemology • What is Truth? • Why is it possible to know anything at all? • What is the meaning of history?	Metaphysics • What is reality? • Ontology: What is a human being? • What happens to a person at death?	Axiology • What is good? • Ethics: How should we behave? How do we know right and wrong?

Action:
"What we say or do"

Assumptions:
"What we think"

Presuppositions



Action

Values

+ Beliefs

+ Ideas

Presuppositions

Values	• Axiology • Ethics
Beliefs	• Metaphysics • Ontology
Ideas	• Epistemology
PRESUPPOSITIONS	

Definition of a Worldview – Sire

- A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true or entirely false) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being.

- ### Theism
- A theist believes that:
 - the triune personal God of the Bible existed;
 - he had revealed himself to us and could be known;
 - the universe was his creation;
 - human beings were his special creation

Theism

- Is this not a presupposition?
- Question: How do we know that it is true?
- How do we even know there is a God?
 - By reason?
 - By revelation?
 - By faith?
 - By contemplation?
 - By proxy?
 - By direct access?

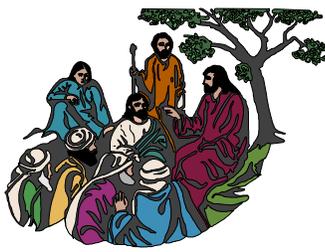
Theism

**How do we know
That our
Worldview
Is TRUE!?**

Theism

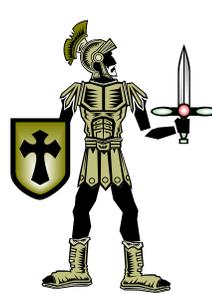
**This is why you
need
Apologetics!**
(from *Απολογία*, which means
“defending the faith”)

**THE PRINCIPLES OF FIRST
PETER 3:15**



**"But in your hearts set apart
Christ as Lord."**

- 1. Be sure you have submitted your life to Jesus as Lord
- 2. Expect that God will work through you
- 3. Put on your spiritual armor (Ephesians 6:10-18)



Apologetics Chart

Apologetics Chart (figure 9.1)

Dialogue ἑταίριος	Apologetics ἑκδοσις/ἔκθεσις	Polemics ΠΟΙ-ΕΠΙΧΩΣ
Irenic (peace)	"defense"	Polemic (war)
Understand both sides	Defend your side	Promote your side
Inclusive	Witnessing	Argue for victory
Friendly		Aggressive
Compromise		No compromise
May be Defensive	← Defensive →	← Offensive →
← Pluralism →	← Inclusionism →	← Exclusionism →
Tends toward universalism	Apologetics flows between defending the faith and promoting the reasonableness of that faith	Tends toward uniqueness of faith system and uniqueness of Christ in Christianity
	Reasons for Apologetics: 1. Preparing 2. Defending 3. Refuting	
Equal basis		Dominant faith over other
Public at large (non-Christians)		Within the church (believers)
Insiders		Outsiders