

Introduction to Christian Apologetics

Christian Assembly School of Ministry, Summer 2009

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Course Description

This course will provide an overview of Christian apologetics, which is the study and defense of the Christian faith. The course will address the importance of the spiritually developed mind, its application to development of one's personal faith, and its exercise in the practice of apologetics. Apologetical topics to be covered and discussed include the validity of reason and apologetics, evidences for God's existence, the scientific and historical reliability of the Bible, the divine claims, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the authenticity of historic Christianity.

Course Schedule

This course will meet Monday nights, 7:00 to 9:00pm, for a total of 8 weeks, beginning on June 22nd and finishing on August 10th, 2009.

Required Textbooks, Course Fee

The \$40 course fee covers the two textbooks that are required for this class. We will cover the first half (Ch. 1-5) of *Love Your God With All Your Mind* in the first two classes; however, it is highly recommended that the student complete reading of the entire book as it gives an excellent overview of developing the spiritual mind. We will cover the entirety of *Handbook of Christian Apologetics* in the remaining six class sessions.

- J.P. Moreland. *Love Your God with All Your Mind*. NAV Press, 1997.
- Peter Kreeft, Ronald Tacelli. *Handbook of Christian Apologetics*. Inter-
varsity Press, 1993.

Course Assignments

1. Reading: Complete all reading assignments from the required textbooks as listed in the syllabus.
2. Quizzes: Short quizzes will be included at the end of the week's outline, and due at the beginning of the next class.
3. Discussion: Class discussion is highly encouraged as the practice of apologetics is focused on conversation and argumentation.
4. Memory verses: 1 Peter 3:15, Prov. 18:13, Psalm 19:1, John 3:12, Luke 24:44, Prov. 1:7, 2 Peter 1:16, 1 Cor. 15:3-5, Acts 4:12
5. Final Exam: There will be a fairly simple final exam reviewing basic concepts and facts from the entire course.

Class Schedule

1. Introduction to the Class and to the Mind
 - a. Class Syllabus overview - introduction to the class
 - b. How We Lost the Christian Mind and Why We Must Recover It (Ch.1)
 - c. Sketching a Biblical Portrait for the Life of the Mind (Ch.2)

2. Developing the Mature Christian Mind
 - a. The Mind's Role in Spiritual Transformation (Ch.3)
 - b. Clearing the Cobwebs from my Mental Attic (Ch.5)
 - c. Principles of Reasoning, Logical Fallacies

3. Faith, Reason and Apologetics (switch to Handbook of Christian Apologetics)
 - a. The Nature, Power and Limitations of Apologetics (Ch.1)
 - b. Faith and Reason (Ch.2)

4. God
 - a. Twenty Arguments for the Existence of God (Ch.3)
 - b. The Nature of God (Ch.4)

5. God and Nature
 - a. Four Problems of Cosmology (Ch.5)
 - b. The Problem of Evil (Ch.6)

6. God and Grace
 - a. The Divinity of Christ (Ch.7)
 - b. The Resurrection (Ch.8)
 - c. The Bible: Myth or History? (Ch.9)

7. God and Glory
 - a. Life After Death (Ch.10)
 - b. Heaven (Ch.11)
 - c. Hell (Ch.12)
 - d. Salvation (Ch.13)

8. Conclusions
 - a. Christianity and Other Religions (Ch.14)
 - b. Objective Truth (Ch.15)
 - c. The Bottom Line (Ch.16)
 - d. Final Exam

The world around us is clamoring for a logical Worldview...yet shouts of desperation for truth and purpose are being masked by the idea that all beliefs are subjective and that there are no absolutes. The apostle Jude told us to "contend earnestly for the faith", but how do we argue for the

**Kingdom in light of the perception that Faith is separate from Reason?
Welcome to Christian Apologetics - the study of the defense of the
Christian faith, which we will explore this summer through an 8-week
course beginning June 22nd. Apologetical topics to be covered and
discussed include the validity of reason and apologetics, evidences for
God's existence, the scientific and historical reliability of the Bible, the
divine claims, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the authenticity
of historic Christianity.**