

Strategies for Defending Your Faith

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Event Webpage (Handouts and Relevant Resources): www.worldvieweyes.org/HMCA.html

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Introduction

A. A Biblical directive for “apologetics”

1. **1 Peter 3:15** _____ **DEFEND** [*apologia*] the faith.
2. **Col. 2:8** “Don’t be taken _____ **CAPTIVE** _____ by deceptive philosophies.”
3. **2 Cor. 10:5** “We _____ **DEMOLISH** _____ arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God.”
4. **2 Timothy 2:24-25** “The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome but be kind to all . . . with gentleness _____ **CORRECTING** _____ those who are in opposition; if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.”
5. **Jude 3** “Contend earnestly for the faith.”

B. Biblical guidelines.

1. Be sensitive (1 Pet. 3:15b; 2 Tim. 2:24-25; Jude 1:22).
2. Be inquisitive (e.g. Mark 11:27-33).
3. Be expressive (John 9, the healed blind man).
4. Be comparative (Rom. 1:18-23; John 6:67-68).

I. Key Response Strategies for Defending the Christian Faith.

A. **“Negative”** Strategy: Show Christianity is _____
_____ **NOT FALSE.**

1. Biblical examples.
 - a. The disciples accused of stealing Jesus’ body (Matt. 28:11-15).
 - b. Festus accuses Paul of being insane (Acts 26:22-32).
 - c. The claim that Christians “all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar” (Acts 17:5-8).
2. Examples today.

- a. The problem of evil.
 - b. ????
- B. **“Positive”** Strategy: Show that Christianity is TRUE.
1. **Evidences in nature** (Ps. 19:1-6; Rom. 1:18-32).
 2. **Miracles** (1 Kings 18; Ex. 10:1-2; Jn 20:30-31; Acts 2:22-24; 1 Cor. 15:1-20).
 - a. John 20:30-31 “... these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”
 - b. Acts 2:22-24 “... Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him”
 3. **Fulfilled prophecy** (Lk. 24:25-27; Acts 17:2-3; 26:22-23; Deut. 18:18-22; Isa. 7:14; Micah 5:2; Zech. 9:9; Isa. 53; Ps. 22:1-8; 16:10).
 4. **The reliability and authority of Scripture.**
 - a. Eyewitness basis (Acts 1:1-5, 21-22; 1 Jn. 1:1-4; 2 Pet. 1:16-21).
 - b. John 20:30-31 “... Jesus did many other signs which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”
 - c. 2 Tim. 3:14-17 “... all Scripture is inspired by God”
 - d. 2 Peter 1:20-21 “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”
 5. **Personal experience.**
 - a. John 9:25-30 “... One thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.”
 - b. Paul's testimonies to the Jews (Acts 22), to Felix (Acts 24:10-23) and to Agrippa (Acts 26).
- C. **“Neutralizing”** Strategy: Show that the other worldview options are INCONSISTENT and UNLIVABLE.
1. Biblical background (2 Cor. 10:5 “... destroying speculations”; Titus 1:9-11 “... refute those who contradict”; Rom. 1:21 “... they became futile in their speculations ...”).
 2. Destroy it from WITHIN.
 3. Apologetic advantage: It does not require using SCRIPTURE in its method.
 4. The basic steps:
 - a. Determine the **logical implications** of the worldview.
 - b. Compare the worldview logical implications to the **claims** and **behavior** of the proponents.
 - c. Expose the **inconsistencies**.
 - d. Expose the **unlivability** of the WV: IF the worldview were consistently applied, few, if any, one would really want to live it.
 5. Examples applied to **Secular Humanism** (and any pure Naturalism).
 6. Examples applied to **Pantheism** and **New Age** (“all is one”).

II. Key Topics Dealing with Origins.

A. The origin of the **UNIVERSE**.

1. Scripture (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6; Isa. 45:12; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3).
2. “Big Bang cosmology”: The universe _____ **BEGAN** _____ (cf. Gen. 1:1).
3. A cosmological argument for God (see William Lane Craig and www.reasonablefaith.org).
 - a. Whatever begins to exist must have a cause.
 - b. The universe began to exist.
 - c. Therefore, the universe had a cause.
4. Non-theistic alternatives.

B. The origin of **LIFE** (cf. Isa. 45:18; Ps. 19:1-2; Romans 1:20).

1. The universe began _____ **JUST** _____ **RIGHT** _____ for life.
 - a. “Fine-tuning” of the universe.
 - b. Precise physical constants (dozens of them). (cf. The “Goldilocks Principle”)
 - (1) e.g. Expansion rate of the universe.
 - (2) e.g. Strength of gravity.
 - (3) e.g. Number of electrons to protons.

Fred Hoyle (non-creationist): “A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a **superintellect has monkeyed with physics**, as well as with chemistry and biology, and there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature” (emphasis added).

2. The wonders of **DNA**.

- a. What does life require?
 - (1) Right **materials** (20 different amino acids).
[40-27,000 amino acids are necessary for just ONE protein!]
 - (2) Correct **sequencing** of materials (placed in the correct and usable order).
[e.g. E coli has about 4,300 proteins.]
 - (3) **Information** (in DNA) to give instructions for the correct sequencing.
- b. The DNA in one human body, if stretched end-to-end, would reach over 42 billion miles!
- c. One gram of DNA could store the same amount of information as 468,000 DVD’s or about 233 3TB hard drives. See <http://www.extremetech.com/extreme/134672-harvard-cracks-dna-storage-crams-700-terabytes-of-data-into-a-single-gram>.
- d. DNA could store all of the world’s data in one room! See *Science Magazine* (Mar. 2, 2017): <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/03/dna-could-store-all-worlds-data-one-room>.

C. The origin of **MORALITY**.

1. Do you have to believe in God to be “good”? _____ **NO** _____.
2. But without God, there is **no moral obligation** to be good!

Dostoevsky (The Russian novelist): “Without God in the future life ... everything is permitted” [Ivan Karamazov in *The Brothers Karamazov*]

Alex Rosenberg (atheist): “So, individual human life is meaningless, without a purpose, and without ultimate moral value” (Rosenberg, *The Atheist's Guide to Reality: Enjoying Life without Illusions* (Kindle Edition, p. 19).

3. Yet, everyone has a deep sense of morality and justice.

4. What is the **FOUNDATION** for these moral demands?
5. Without God, the foundations for morality and justice will
_____ **CRUMBLE** _____.

III. Key Conclusions.

- A. Many considerations point to God.
- B. Competing views are severely problematic.
- C. The Christian worldview is comparatively *better* than *any* alternative.